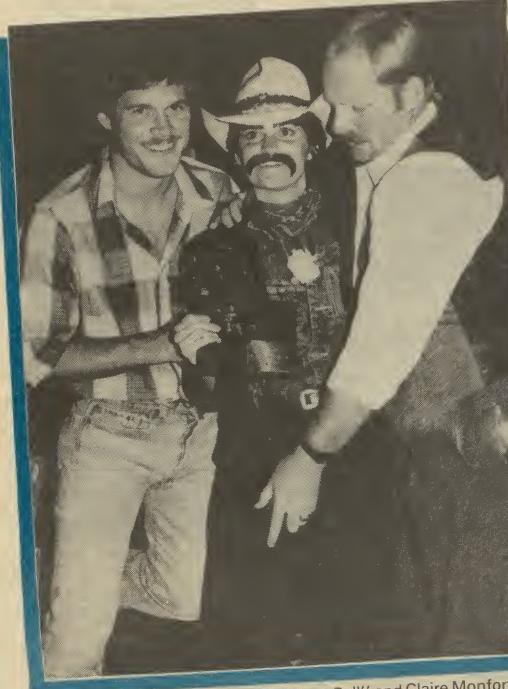


BAY AREA REPORTER

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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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The event was the "Switch Hitters Ball" and Claire Monfort (c.), of the Amelia's softball team, placed third with her male dragola routine. She is flanked by Bill Plexoto and Curtis Lyon. (Photo: Rink)

Plan Pushed for Gay School in S.F.

Panel Examines Problems Of Gay Youth—Suggests Solution

by Charles Linebarger

A panel of speakers representing the newly created Institute for Educating Gay and Lesbian Youth spoke to a meeting of the Stonewall Democratic Club on Monday evening. Five panelists appeared and talked about the need for a gay high school in San Francisco.

Pedro Pastrano, the openly gay summer principal at Newcomer High School, presented preliminary statistics from the Larkin Street Youth Center and Huckleberry House which showed that the drop-out rate among those who identified themselves as sexual minority teenagers is extremely high. The drop-out rate among sexual minority youth at Larkin was found to be 100 percent. At Huckleberry House it was 75 percent.

Sexual minority teenagers also complained of harassment from their straight peers in their former high schools. Most of those interviewed at Larkin said that they had been harassed, as against 70 percent of those at Huckleberry.

"We have a situation where we have kids dropping out," Pastrano said, "who are really talented and gifted but who are constantly harassed sexually. I think all of us here were sexually harassed when we were in school but when we grow up we tend to forget it."

Mily Trabing works at the Larkin Youth Center and described herself as someone who walks the streets to talk to kids who are working as prostitutes.

"I dropped out of school when I was 16 because I was gay," Trabing said.

(Continued on page 2)

RUNAWAYS

Greg Day, the director of the Larkin Street Youth Center and the Polk Street Town Hall, told the meeting that a disproportionate number of the one million teenage runaways are lesbian and gay youth. These teenagers run away from home according to Day, because they receive no emotional support from their families, peers or teachers.

"There are one to two thousand youth on the streets (of San Francisco) every night," Day said. "A high proportion are gay."

According to Day, the Harvey Milk School in New York does something very similar to the Larkin Street Youth Center. Both institutions, Day said, attempt to integrate youth back into the school system.

Mily Trabing works at the Larkin Youth Center and described herself as someone who walks the streets to talk to kids who are working as prostitutes.

"I dropped out of school when I was 16 because I was gay," Trabing said.

(Continued on page 2)

Castro Murder; A Deadly 'Trick'?

Police Caution Gay Men, Probe Spate of Homicides

by Allen White

Edward Fielding, 30, became San Francisco's 52nd murder victim this year. His body was found in his Castro area apartment on July 31. He had been stabbed to death.

Police are still looking for information which might link him with his murderer or murderers. According to police, Fielding had many friends and frequented several popular South of Market bars.

Officers believe that Fielding was out in one of those bars or possibly a bar in the Castro area. They also believe he could have picked up a person and then they both could have gone to Fielding's apartment. While in the apartment, Fielding was stabbed to death.

The San Francisco Police Department is now asking any-

one who may have seen Fielding on Monday night, July 30 between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. to contact Inspectors Sanders or Hendricks. Their telephone number is 558-1145.

Fielding was a computer analyst for P.G. & E. and apparently had made many friends. He was a member of the San

(Continued on page 2)



Ed Fielding, as he appeared a few months ago. He recently shaved his beard and was without one the night of his murder. Police seek people who may have seen the victim.

IN THIS ISSUE

ONE YEAR after John O'Connell was murdered on Polk Street, a trial remains many months away. The four men accused in the case languish in jail as lawyers win repeated delays. George Mendenhall explains on page 3.

ENTERTAINERS, not political leaders, are shaping the public's growing consciousness on AIDS. Hollywood jumps aboard the bandwagon to fight the epidemic as Allen White digs up the story behind the headlines on page 4.

MILITANCY is the goal for Black and White Men Together as it meets in L.A. New leaders say it's time to boycott and picket biased bars. Morgan Pinney files a report on page 12.

FUNERAL service fires its gay director. It is a case of *deja vu* at Lambda Funeral Guild. Story on page 14.

DO-RE-ME found its way into Mike Hippel's notes for his latest column. But all the notes aren't in Hippel's notebook as he joins the warblers at the Gay Men's Chorus. Page 22.



Most Holy Redeemer Convent on Diamond Street is slated to become a hospice. (Photo: Rink)

Hospice Proposed In Castro Convent

Archdiocese, Hospice of S.F. And Gay Group Set Plans

by Charles Linebarger

An unusual convent in the Castro would become a hospice for people with AIDS under a plan currently being discussed. The Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco and the Hospice of San Francisco are negotiating a deal, along with gay members of both groups who have formed an umbrella organization they call "Coming Home."

(Continued on page 3)

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By DR. RICK PETTIT
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Think Gay — Feel Gay —
Touch Gay — Be Gay —
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Bay Area Reporter

Cops Warn Gays After Murder

(Continued from page 1)

Francisco Wrestling Club and the Golden Gate Wrestling Club. He had lived in San Francisco, according to one friend, for about a year and a half. He lived near 20th and Diamond Streets.

Police caution that they are working on several similar cases—and urge gay men to be wary. Late last month, San Francisco police arrested two men, Ronnie Wingfield, 26, and Thomas Keel, 31, in Redding, California. The two men were charged with the murder of George Butts in his Gough Street apartment on July 5. Butts, who was 61, was strangled in his apartment.

According to police, a con-

fession states that the two men took Butts' car and went to West Covina. There is now a continuing investigation regarding these two men with authorities in Portland and Albany, Oregon; Covina and Azusa, California; and West Covina. Most of the crimes being investigated appear to be gay-related.

Police inspectors continue to caution people who pick up a person. One primary word of caution is to urge people to tell their bartender that they are leaving and point out the person with whom they are leaving the bar.

It doesn't guarantee a person's safety, yet it could help lead to a person who is a murderer. Also, police note that if a person is

identified and has criminal intent, he sometimes will become fearful and not go home with the person. People may lose a trick—but save their life.

There appears to be other indications of a violent crime increase which is gay-related in San Francisco. As a result, respected sources at the Hall of Justice indicate a strengthening of police efforts in the Tenderloin and Polk Street areas.

Plainclothes police officers have substantially stepped up their efforts to arrest people who are engaged in prostitution and arresting people who have outstanding warrants for their arrest. ■

A. White



The panel talking about a gay school included (from l.) Hank Wilson, Pedro Pastrana, Mily Trabing, Greg Day and Steve Garrett. (Photo: Rink)

Plan for S.F. Gay School

(Continued from page 1)

bing said. "And once a kid drops out they usually leave home. When I dropped out I realized that gay kids go to San Francisco. I came here with high hopes and big dreams. Young gay kids need role models. The suicide rate is atrocious and many would go home—but their parents don't want them," Trabing said.

Hank Wilson, who formerly worked with CUAV's educational outreach program in presenting a gay point of view to the city's high school students, talked about the divergent goals a

gay high school could serve. Wilson asked whether all gay students or just those who can't function should be gathered into a gay institution.

"Will the goals of a gay high school be to see how many students it can collect or the number it can mainstream back into the normal schools?" Wilson asked. "If we pull out all of our talented gay men and women that could hurt us—because to know us is to love us," said Wilson.

Steve Barret, a teacher in the San Francisco Unified School District, told the meeting the issue is not the possibility of a gay drain from the city's schools

but that of a real possibility now for the creation of a gay high school.

"A grander point than this high school," Day interjected during the questioning period later in the evening, "is the responsibility of the city and county of San Francisco to provide services to our youth, whether (they are) biological or members of our community. \$247 million goes to the Board of Education, much of that from our taxes. Where are we in the services they deliver? What is this money doing for our people?" ■

C. Linebarger

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Journal Writing for Women	8/21
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Hospice Proposed

(Continued from page 1)

The pressure of the AIDS epidemic on local services has prompted the Gay and Lesbian Auxiliary of the Hospice of San Francisco to push for a new facility to help handle the AIDS overload at other locations. The Hospice of San Francisco is currently caring for people with AIDS but there is a waiting list of from 30 to 40 people. The need is there and the Gay and Lesbian Auxiliary, or Coming Home as it is also styled, is stepping in to take up the slack.

Coming Home came up with the idea of a hospice during the last year, according to Donald Catalano, the president of Coming Home. The idea gained support as a widening gap in AIDS services became apparent.

HOME-LIKE SETTING

"There are more and more people with AIDS," Catalano said, "who no longer need to be in the hospital but still need 24-hour supervision. (We envision) a place where people who are terminally ill can go to die comfortably."

The Hospice of San Francisco is no longer able to meet the need of people with AIDS adequately, Catalano said, because the city has placed a cap on the funding for the program. And Gov. George Deukmejian vetoed funds for AIDS hospice care. Not everyone who needs hospice services can be taken care of currently. "That's why we need another facility," said Catalano.

Catalano said he also believes that a Castro hospice will save dollars in the long run. He thinks that those who are unable to gain admittance into the hospice will probably need to be cared for at a hospital where skilled nursing care is required. "That will be more expensive," Catalano said. "At the hospice we will have one attendant to see that our people are comfortable."

FORMER CONVENT

Coming Home is hoping to put its hospice into the former convent of the church of the Most Holy Redeemer on Diamond Street. The former convent is located across the street from the church and is just off of 18th Street.

According to Catalano, the convent facility was presented to Coming Home by the parish council under the influence of the gays and lesbians within the parish.

The plans call for the former convent to be leased to the Hospice of San Francisco but with Coming Home somehow involved in the running of the facility. "Right now we will be involved in the fund raising," said Catalano.

"I'm personally excited," the president of Coming Home said. "Here are several mainstream organizations working with us. And given the active involvement of gay men and lesbians at Most Holy Redeemer and at the Hospice of San Francisco, I don't see a danger of a straight-run organization here. Many of the officers at the Hospice are gay."

MONEY A PROBLEM

The next step in getting the doors of the new hospice opened will be licensing. Catalano said that he hopes the facility will be opened and functioning by the end of the year but he notes that San Francisco has stringent fire regulations. Money will also be a problem.

"We need to do a lot of remodeling which will cost about \$350,000," Catalano explained. But he hopes that the

1 Year Later, Still No Trial In O'Connell Case

4 Men From Vallejo Languishing In Jail

by George Mendenhall

One year after the brutal murder of John O'Connell, the four young men accused in the case are still months away from trial. Today, the four young men from Vallejo languish on their cell bunks on the seventh floor of the Hall of Justice — unable to post the \$1 million bail, each, imposed by the court. They may be there until at least February of next year — the latest date set in an oft-delayed murder case.

The chapel at the former convent is being de-sanctified but will remain as a meditation room for people of all religions. A place to meditate and reflect will probably be useful at a hospice for the dying where the average length of stay is estimated to run about two weeks.

C. Linebarger

Shop for a good Gay time
in every issue of the
Bay Area Reporter

Bail was set at \$1 million each for four of the attackers — Tim White, 23; and Douglas Barr,

Prosecutor Bill Fazio and four defense attorneys have made numerous attempts to get their complicated schedules coordinated to bring the O'Connell attackers to trial. Fazio explains, "These delays are not unusual in a trial as complex as this one and involving five busy attorneys."

When a trial date of July 29 — one year from the incident — was recently agreed upon, one attorney withdrew to accept a position in Marin County and the new attorney was given time to study the transcript. The next tentative date is set for October 10, but a conflicting trial involving Fazio begins October 16. If that trial proceeds, Fazio says "We are talking about February, 1986." The time now being served by the four men will credit to them if they receive a guilty verdict.

Living Sober

The Tenth Annual Living Sober conference, hosted by gay and lesbian members of Alcoholics Anonymous, will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 16-18 in San Francisco. The meeting space is wheelchair accessible; free childcare is available.

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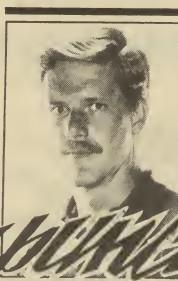
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Stars, Not Politicians, Lead Public to Face the AIDS Issue

Hope and Hazard in Hollywood Response; A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Hudson's Decision

by Allen White

"There is now a new risk group for AIDS," said Dr. Marcus Conant this week. "The group is the rich and the famous." With the admission by Rock Hudson that he has the disease, the social dynamics of the disease have dramatically changed.

Hollywood has become a center in the growing awareness of the AIDS epidemic. The results are both hopeful and hazardous for gay people.

On the one hand, Hudson's illness has rallied some of America's most famous stars to the fight against AIDS. Elizabeth Taylor, Shirley MacLaine and Burt Lancaster are among those slated to take part in a \$1 million AIDS fundraiser on Sept. 19. The star-studded bash—unthinkable a year ago—will be a classic Hollywood charity affair. All of those involved know that the benefit will be a big breakthrough.

"It's more than a celebrity night. We want to raise the consciousness of America. People have to realize this disease is affecting everybody," said publicist Suzanne Neff.

One of the co-chairs of the event is *TV Guide* executive Wallis Annenberg. Annenberg said, "We want more attention, clarity, visibility, openness and support for the whole subject of AIDS." He described Hudson as the "key to bringing this issue out into the open."

NEW HYSTERIA

But with this change, has come a new type of AIDS hysteria which is sweeping the entertainment industry. Rona Barrett, in a very pro-gay commentary Monday night, described how many Hollywood stars may stop working with gay men who are perceived as being gay.

Barrett said there is talk of a gay blacklist similar to the lists of the McCarthy era in the early 1950s. She had attorneys speak who told of how contracts in the future may well contain clauses regarding with whom an actor or actress might choose to work.

As this hysteria is developing, respect is growing for Rock Hudson and the courage he has shown in acknowledging that he has AIDS.

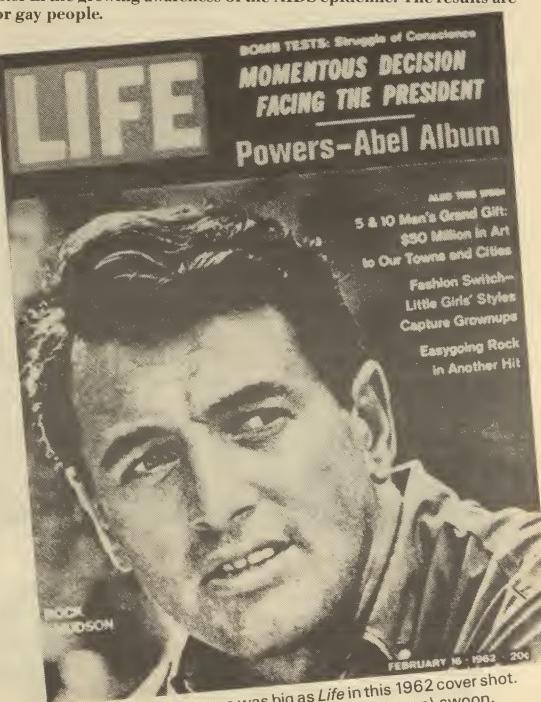
There are indications that Hudson made a purposeful decision to appear with Doris Day in conjunction with her new television program. People were shocked at his appearance. That appearance was his last appearance in public and it gave photographers and television media an opportunity to see his physical condition. He has not been seen in public since.

It is also believed that he made a personal decision, almost in keeping with Hollywood protocol, to release the information to *Daily Variety* columnist Army Archerd that he had AIDS. The item appeared Tuesday, July 23. *Update* speculates that following that announcement, Hudson's publicity people would then confirm the fact that the actor would be seeking treatment at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

OFF GUARD

Plans went askew when, the previous Sunday, Hudson collapsed in his hotel room in Paris and was rushed to the American Hospital there. Hudson never did get treatment for AIDS during his recent trip to Paris. But it was learned that in a trip several months ago, the actor had received treatment at the Paris institute.

As the story broke in the



Rock Hudson's image was big as *Life* in this 1982 cover shot. His image made millions (not all of them women) swoon.

Hollywood-based *Daily Variety*, there appears no question his Los Angeles publicists were caught off-guard. Dale Olsen, one of the most respected publicists in the entertainment industry, took charge. He issued a story that stated Hudson was in the Paris hospital with an inoperable liver cancer. Olsen also said Hudson would be seeing doctors specializing in AIDS. By simply seeing the word "AIDS," reporters realized the *Daily Variety* column was confirmed.

Dale Olsen told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he has never been so proud of a client as he is of Rock Hudson. The veteran publicist said that he easily could have kept the information that Hudson had AIDS a secret. The decision to make the information public, according to Olsen, was a personal choice of Rock Hudson.

Olsen does dispute the scenario as outlined in the *Update* report, stating the decision was made in Paris by Rock Hudson on Wednesday night, July 24. The official announcement was made on Thursday, July 25.

Olsen is correct in stating that the news that Rock Hudson had AIDS could have been kept quiet. The main reason is simply the rules of doctor-patient confidentiality. All Hudson's publicity people would have had to do is deny the reports and there would have been no way the information could be reported without serious legal complications.

BURT REYNOLDS

Nowhere can this be better illustrated than here in San Francisco. Every single news organization has received what it believes to be reliable reports that Burt Reynolds is in San Francisco receiving treatment for AIDS. The *San Francisco Examiner* has published the rumor. The reports come from people who either are, or claim to be, working in various San Francisco hospitals.

The manager has claimed his client has not been in San Francisco for three years and is reluctant to discuss the situation further. For this reason, with every television, radio and newspaper working on the same story, the story cannot be confirmed.

Many news gathering organizations have contacted the entertainer's personal manager. The response has been one of arrogance and rudeness.

The manager has claimed his client has not been in San Francisco for three years and is reluctant to discuss the situation further. For this reason, with every television, radio and newspaper working on the same story, the story cannot be confirmed.

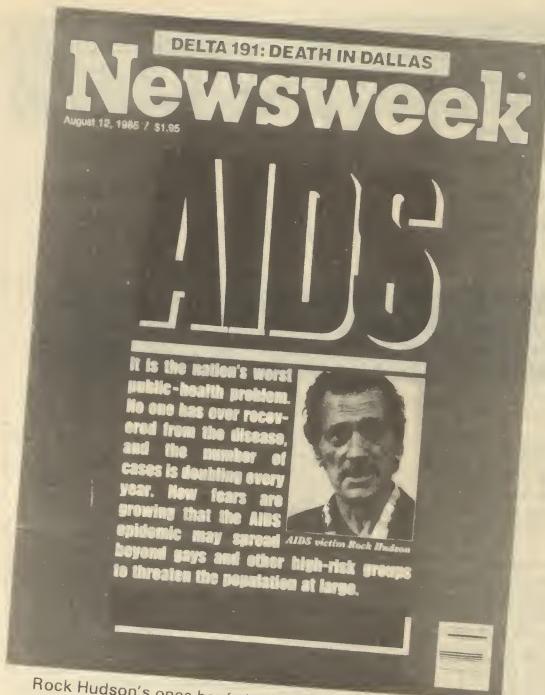
It is for this reason that Rock Hudson is now receiving such a high degree of respect. This respect is coming from the medical profession, the gay community, and the entertainment industry.

GREAT LEVELER

Dr. Marcus Conant, a leading physician in the treatment of AIDS, said that Rock Hudson's decision has brought a new dimension to the health crisis. Conant notes that it gives focus to the tragedy of the disease.

"It underscores the fact," says Conant, "that there is no cure for AIDS, no matter how rich or how famous you may be. It is important that people get beyond the titillation of a famous star having AIDS and now search for a cure for this incurable and fatal disease."

(Continued on next page)



Rock Hudson's once beefy looks showed the ravages of a year's battle with AIDS—and again gave America pause as Newsweek hit the streets this week.

Stars

(Continued from previous page)

Conant is direct and firm in stating, "There is no magic cure for AIDS, the disease is a killer."

He also stated that the disease is now much larger than just the gay community. "If the gay community wants to think it is their disease, they are going to have to find a way to find a cure. The reality is they can't and the disease is much bigger than just the gay community."

Conant said he hopes that the publicity generated around the disease will not be just another quick publicity hype which will go away in a few days. Though his office has received dozens of calls in the last few weeks because of Rock Hudson, it is not the first time.

Every time there is a different type of tragedy, the telephone lines light up from news organi-

zations. "A few days later," says Conant, "when the item ceases to be sensationalistic, the phones stop ringing."

Conant agrees with many that the courage of Rock Hudson has given a new awareness of the disease to many people. He believes it is no longer going to be looked at solely as a gay disease. "This is good," he says. "Because let's face it, most of our leaders despise gays."

The desire to help in the fight against AIDS by the entertainment industry has also surfaced. The next major event will be on Sept. 19. Elizabeth Taylor will be hosting a benefit at \$1,000 per person for the AIDS Project, Los Angeles. The guest of honor is to be Betty Ford. In recent days it has been suggested that Rock Hudson also receive a Humanitarian Award for his courage. It is the hope of the dinner to raise in excess of \$1 million.

A. White

Priests' Group Endorses Gay Rights

The National Federation of Priests' Councils representing some 30,000 U.S. Roman Catholic priests from its 105-member diocesan priests' councils and religious orders has endorsed the Catholic Coalition for Gay Civil Rights statement calling upon Catholics to "support sound civil rights legislation . . . and not to oppose such ordinances on the basis of unfounded fears, irrational myths and inflammatory statements about homosexuality."

The NFPC endorsement also commits the group "to work for the elimination of discriminatory and unchristian attitudes and practices" in Catholic parishes, schools, diocesan offices, chanceries, seminaries, religious communities and the Catholic media.

The Coalition statement discusses social justice, myths about homosexuality and actions to dispel prejudice and rejects what it calls an "unproven assumption" that protection in law for gay persons endorses any particular "lifestyle." The Coalition also categorizes as "myth" the popular belief that homosexuality contributes "to the breakdown of family life" and the fear that gay teachers influence young people in regard to their sexual orientation.

The NFPC endorsement is the latest such from a growing list of prominent national Catholic or-

Antibody Tests Show 33% Positive

Slight Rise in New AIDS Cases for July

Department of Public Health officials reported Aug. 1 that 33 percent of the AIDS antibody tests given during the first month of a special testing program have come back positive.

A positive result does not mean a person has or will get AIDS. It only tells if a person has been exposed to the virus. So far, in San Francisco, 745 people have taken the test and 434 have received test results. Of those, 146 were positive and 288 negative.

Dr. Dean Echenberg, director of disease control for the Health Department, said, "nothing about the presence of the HTLV-3 virus in San Francisco's population can be inferred from these tests results." Added Dr. Echenberg, "those who are taking the antibody test come from a self-selected group, not a random sampling of the population. The test is voluntary and most likely taken by persons who think they may have been exposed to the HTLV-3 virus, which can cause AIDS."

"If it were 100 percent positive, I would be concerned," continued Echenberg. "This sampling doesn't tell you much about who did or did not come in. You cannot extrapolate this number to the rest of the community."

The antibody test procedure, a simple drawing of blood, includes counseling sessions before and after the test is taken. The Health Department's position is that counseling is an educational process to help people decide whether to take the test. "People should inform themselves about what the test means before taking it," Dr. Echenberg stressed.

Test results are not given over the phone and a person must return to a health center to get his or her result. Another counseling session is held then to help the

person interpret the result. A positive or negative should not change an individual's choice of a safe lifestyle," Dr. Echenberg said. "The second counseling session may be useful in reinforcing that choice."

The anonymous test has been offered since July 1. Tests are available at Health Center #1, 3830 17th Street, and Health Center #5, 1351 24th Street.

The test is constructed in a way that only the person tested knows his or her own code. The test is so protected that if the person forgets the assigned code, the test results cannot be traced. Information on the test is available by calling 621-4858. Appointments to take the test may be made at the same number.

The Department of Public Health recorded 64 new cases of AIDS during July, and 40 AIDS-related deaths during the same period.

The total number of AIDS-related deaths this year now stands at 265. The total number of deaths since records began in 1981 stands at 667. The number of new AIDS cases reported this year, so far, stands at 440 and the total since reporting began in 1981 is 1,310.

July figures show a slight decrease in deaths. June's total for AIDS-related deaths was 49.

the number of new AIDS cases increased slightly in July, however, over June's figure of 53 new cases.

"July's numbers do not yet reflect any significant change in the AIDS statistics," Department of Health Director, Dr. David Werdegar said. "Month-to-month fluctuations are difficult to interpret. We hope to see such changes sustained in coming months," Dr. Werdegar added.

Girth and Mirth Club

The Girth and Mirth Club of San Francisco, a Gay men's club where chubbies meet chasers, will hold its annual Russian River picnic on Sunday, Aug. 13. Club members will also be attending the 5th National Girth and Mirth Convention in Seattle on Labor Day weekend. For further information on both events, call 680-7612.

Robbery Victim Sought

San Francisco Police are looking for a man who was robbed early Monday morning (2:30 a.m.), Aug. 5, in the parking lot behind Walgreen's at 18th and Castro Streets. Police have two suspects in custody plus a witness but are hoping the victim will come forward to help in the prosecution. Anyone having information on this incident may call Randy Schell at Community United Against Violence (CUAV) at 864-3112 or leave a message for SFPD Officer Bob Miller (Star #2095) at Mission Station, 553-1544.

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

The Closet

The closet is out of the closet. The closet was dragged out of the closet in a blunt, sad and ironic way. Everybody's favorite hunk, Rock Hudson, got AIDS. So everybody knew what *People* magazine meant this week when it headlined, "The Other Life of Rock Hudson." It proves the bromide that nothing so ensures the mass publication of a fact as a concerted effort to keep it secret.

It also shows our perverse glee, as Americans, to see the fall of heroes. Hudson's unwilling coming-out will not elevate gaydom so much as it will debase the star. As Hudson's aunt said, "Never would we think that he would be *that*. He was just always such a *good* person."

Hudson's ordeal demonstrates at once the need for closets and the consequences of closetry. The politically correct line is to smash all closet doors. "Whoever you are—you must come out!" says Harvey Milk, in his own Academy Award-winning film.

Niles Merton, publisher of *The Advocate* and a paradigm of the angry, young "out" set, wrote a blistering attack on the closet. To a closeted reader he asked, "What are you hiding from?"

Most gay people are hiding from plenty, and rightly so. Those of us who choose to be out of the closet usually heap righteous indignation on those who choose to remain in. We call them weak. But the closet is not so much a symbol of gay weakness, as it is a witness to the powerful forces of hostility arrayed against us. Those in the closet are hiding from the rejection of loved family members, the censure of peers, the loss of employment, the snatching away of their own children—and yes, the fear and loathing of themselves.

Then there is the question: Out to whom? The closet isn't a place with just one door. And coming out isn't a matter of just one step. Coming out is a process similar to throwing a stone in a brook. The stone creates every-widening ripples in the water. Some people come out when they acknowledge to themselves they are gay. Some people come out when they first join a gay church or go to a gay bar or join a gay political club. For others, nothing short of a picture in *Newsweek* will do. All are valid. It takes what it takes.

And that's the goal: to make it in a hostile world. Perhaps "coming out" isn't as important as "coming in"—coming in to gay friends, to a gay family, to a gay community. Most of us have not the strength to face homophobia alone. And so we come in together and find the strength to make it one more day.

This has nothing to do with telling the boss or your mother that you are gay. In many respects doing so is not important. It is if you want to change the world; but for most of us, just staying alive and finding a little bit of happiness is struggle enough. So "coming in" is the trick.

And what good is changing the world if we destroy ourselves doing it? Why wait until the world is reborn to find acceptance? We can love and accept each other, today, right now.

Doing so requires love and acceptance among all of us. We should smash the closet, yes—but only as a barrier that stands between gay people of different outlooks. We're all in this together. We must offer what we demand of the rest of the world: love and compassion.

Brian Jones

B.A.R.

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Media Have

* Two remarks regarding the 7/25/85 issue: The caption below the McCarty-Amburgy photo on the front page says "the terror and fame has passed." This caught my "English teacher eye," and I couldn't just let it go. A compound subject takes a plural verb in English: "the terror and fame *have* passed." Or so I keep telling my students every semester.

Secondly, in the article about NY's "Gay School," Allen White uses a singular verb with media: "the media has." Joyce Hunter knows her grammar, however, and construes media correctly by: "The media . . . have not been kind." Media is the plural form of medium.

Gordon Ross
San Francisco

Re-examine Drug Services

* I am writing in regards to Dr. John Newmeyer's letter printed in the Aug. 1, *B.A.R.* Dr. Newmeyer had commented on an article written by Charles Linebarger entitled "Mayor Urges Gay Drug Agency But Bureaucracy Ignores Her." Both Dr. Newmeyer and I were quoted in the article. Dr. Newmeyer and I share principal investigator responsibilities for a federally funded research and health promotion project dealing with AIDS and the needle-using drug user. As such I value our working relationship and have deep respect for Dr. Newmeyer's years of work in the drug field. However, as former director of research with San Francisco Community Substance Abuse Services and a principal researcher in the field of substance abuse in the Bay Area, I feel compelled to take issue with my colleague's letter.

Dr. Newmeyer asserts that there are currently 6,000 heroin addicts active in San Francisco, and that no lessening of treatment services for heroin abusers is indicated. I wish to offer an alternative interpretation of the drug indicator data. The rate of heroin abuse in San Francisco appears to have declined substantially since the peak years of the mid-Seventies. True, we have seen a modest upturn in some heroin use indicators for the past two years. This may be, however, a "blip" in a general downward trend. My view is that we are seeing relatively minor fluctuations in a level of addiction that has achieved a steady state which is substantially lower than the levels obtained in the mid-Seventies.

For example, we are now experiencing a sudden rash of "suspected heroin deaths" in the Bay Area. These may be due to new fentanyl analogs (powerful synthetic opiates) the bootleg manufacturers and distributors of which may not yet have "adjusted" dosages to safe levels. (Indeed, a recent study by Dr. Gary Henderson of the U.C. Davis Medical School suggests that at least 10 percent of the city's methadone clients are using fentanyl analogs.)

The question of whether more or fewer treatment "slots" are needed for heroin abusers cannot be answered without simultaneously considering the magnitude and social costs of other drug problems. For example, stimulant abuse (cocaine and the amphetamines) has increased at dramatic rates while heroin abuse is apparently substantially below its mid-Seventies peak.

In San Francisco, for the seven year period between 1977 and 1984 heroin deaths declined 28 percent. However, for the same period, amphetamine deaths increased over 580 percent, and cocaine deaths increased over 2,300 percent. Deaths involving cocaine have now equaled the number of deaths associated with heroin, while deaths for the amphetamines have surpassed the fiscal year 1983 and 1984 milestones for heroin related deaths. Also, the age of individuals seeking treatment in methadone maintenance programs has increased over recent years. This suggests that as older addicts stop using, die, or move away, that there will be fewer young recruits to fill the vacant ranks.

This year, the Haight-Ashbury Detoxification Unit alone will turn away hundreds of stimulant abusers

seeking treatment. Like heroin, stimulant abuse can be lethal. The stimulants are far more toxic substances than heroin. Like heroin they are frequently associated with needle use, and needle use is associated with the transmission of the AIDS virus.

The 1983 Morales/Graves study of gay substance abusers found that about 11 percent of San Francisco gay males had injected "speed," thus compounding AIDS risk factors, not only for their sexual partners, but for those who might share their needles. Despite the facts of accelerated stimulant use the response by the San Francisco drug treatment administration has been curiously weak. Under these circumstances I believe that the overall network of drug abuse services merits systematic re-examination and, perhaps, some adjustments.

The article by Linebarger and the reaction to it have helped to elevate both the level of discussion and consciousness about issues of drug abuse and the way the city drug treatment administration funds treatment services. These are issues that should be important to all San Franciscans. I look forward to a continued dialogue and heightened participation of citizens and concerned professionals in this important discussion.

John K. Watters
Co-Principal Investigator
AIDS Risk Reduction Project

Celebrity Closets

* While it would no doubt work to the advantage of the gay community for a public figure to come out of the closet, I believe there are some aspects of the Rock Hudson story which have been overlooked by Steve Warren.

Obviously, there are arguments in favor of denying a public figure basic privacy which the rest of us take for granted. We can always claim that people who voluntarily become celebrities open their personal lives to public evaluation, and therefore they deserve whatever they get. We can also insist that these individuals have an obligation to society which requires them to make sacrifices for the public good.

I believe Mr. Warren disregarded the possibility that some celebrities—especially those in Hollywood—already have been subjected to too much of this public evaluation. They are no longer human beings entitled to dignified lives. They become the property of the public and the news media, which create images of these people at their own discretion.

Under the circumstances, it is very appropriate that a public figure tries to maintain some privacy. The obvious fear of reprisal keeps many Gay celebrities in the closet, and we should not criticize them for wanting to protect their careers and their safety.

Steve Warren's column is a sad reminder of a fact which was established long ago: that the most convenient time to hit a man is when he's down.

Ann Mason
San Francisco

Letter Policy

* The *Bay Area Reporter* welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

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LETTERS

Judge Not

★ I find Steve Warren's long diatribe on Rock Hudson (*B.A.R.*, 8/1) saddening and appalling.

Whether or not Rock Hudson is gay, he, like so many other brothers and sisters with AIDS, has suddenly been stigmatized in the media and public consciousness alike as having a "fatal" disease. Overnight, attention is focused, not on his own inner turmoil and suffering, but on his eventual demise. What a tremendous struggle he must face, especially if he is determined to triumph over AIDS! Not only must he deal with the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of the disease, and the impact of its revelation on his fans, but he must now cope with the thought forms and public pronouncements of tens of millions of people who are writing him off as a goner.

Were that not bad enough, Rock Hudson, suddenly removed from his star pedestal and rendered exposed and vulnerable, has now become the public recipient of the anger, as opposed to the compassion, of at least one of his gay brothers. Yes, seen from the outside, Rock Hudson, gay in the entertainment industry, and every single one of us who has hidden his homosexuality from public scrutiny, have helped to perpetuate the oppression of lesbians and gays. But that is an outside view. None of us is Rock Hudson. None of us can fully understand all that he has felt throughout his lifetime, and what he is feeling now. No one has the right to judge what he, or anyone else, should or should not do.

Rock Hudson's public revelation of his disease, and perhaps of his homosexuality, is an opportunity for us to unite in compassion and in love. Many of us who have been working for years to promote the healing of AIDS feel that it is the lack of love and self-love on this planet, as well as the political, economic and social oppression of gays, that has contributed to the rise of AIDS in our community at this time. What an opportunity we have been given to further open our hearts to each other, and to practice understanding and forgiveness!

As I understand it, the healing of AIDS is intimately intertwined with our ability and willingness to accept ourselves, and each other, with love as opposed to judgment, exactly as we are. Our struggle with AIDS is a tremendous opportunity to heal, not only our community, but our planet because of color, sex, sexuality or appearance. As we unite in Love, so shall we become whole. This, ultimately, is the essence of holistic healing.

Jason Serinus
San Francisco

Open the Playgrounds

★ Please take a moment to support a cause even better than Mom and apple pie. I'm talking about reopening San Francisco's school playgrounds and gyms.

You didn't know they were closed? I didn't either. But since Prop. 13 in 1978, we've closed 44 after-school supervised playgrounds used by 3,000 children and 26 evening gyms used by 1,100 youth.

We've closed about two-thirds of our town's supervised recreation! I think this is one of many reasons we have so much anti-gay violence. What are kids to do?

Let's give them something all kids deserve—playgrounds and gyms with proper supervision.

Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth has developed a proposal Sup. John Molinari has agreed to introduce to the Board of Supervisors.

You can easily help. Just write in your support or call Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, 2601 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110, phone: 641-4362.

This effort will help us all!

R. Hunter Morey
San Francisco

Play Ball

★ This is our second year in the GSL and we have found it to be many things. It's been a real strong support system for our lifestyle with many strong male (support) figures. We have established many great friendships and found the social world of the GSL to be great on most occasions. We are proud to be part of the GSL and wish it all the luck in the world as we feel it's going to need it.

We have found so many inadequacies in the league and feel (once again)—as we are sure others have tried in the past) someone should speak out.

I have belonged to many other gay organizations and due to all the problems internally, I have resigned myself from them. At this point I would find it difficult to get involved with any gay organization and I feel that this is a shared feeling by many others in the gay community. Is this our lifestyle? Is this what it's truly all about? How many others fall into this category? Is the GSL one of those organizations?

It's almost world series time in the GSL and it's an exact repeat of what took place last year. The team that was in strong contention to go to the world series and represent our fair city is well on its way to being subjected to all sorts of things—an outcast of sorts, left without any moral or financial support.

It's hard to make it to the top and the ball players struggle real hard with all the games that are played in the GSL. I may be wrong but it seems like there's a lot of jealousy, politics and favorite being played with any team that is in contention to go to the world series.

All teams, players and officials of the GSL should unite and stand strong behind whichever team makes it to the top. We are a great city with many great people and one of the largest selections of great ballplayers to draw from. We should be able to put a team in the

world series that will bring back a trophy, and give the city of San Francisco the type of representation she deserves.

I realize that there's always going to be problems, politics, etc., but let's be a little more supportive of our teams, players and their needs. After all without these ballplayers what would this league be?

Yes, many people worked hard to form the league when it first assembled and they deserve a great deal of credit. Our hats are off to you guys, thanks for a job well done.

I would like to wish our girls team—Amelia's—all the luck in the world. Bring back a trophy girls... we need one. You're a welcome sight to the GSL and we're all pulling for you to bring back the first ever trophy for the female division. Show them what San Francisco is all about.

Good luck to all that participate in the GSL and my best to all the players that play ball for the sport and not the politics or personal gains.

Joseph Elia
San Leandro, CA

Obnoxious Bigotry

★ I really appreciate *B.A.R.* calling attention to the apparent homophobia of College Board member John Riordan. In the fight against AIDS I hope the Gay/Lesbian community will not forget the struggle against the obnoxious bigotry that this incident so well illustrates.

If John Riordan can hound exceptional board-appointed candidates like Michael Tolbert out of a job, then not only does the gay/lesbian community lose but also the larger community as well. This case not only illustrates homophobia, but also can affect the future quality of education here in San Francisco.

I fully intend to vote against John Riordan in the next College Board election (1986) and will actively encourage others to do likewise.

Mel Tatsapaugh
San Francisco

Exercise In Restraint

★ Not that it's anybody's business, but since AIDS can be transmitted by blood transfusions, and since Rock Hudson underwent bypass surgery not long ago, one might speculate that the sad news he has AIDS does not necessarily mean he's gay. One might speculate, that is, if his so-called "friends" weren't so eager to drag him out of the closet that they've decided to make his private life public.

Congratulations to the *Chronicle* and writers Lang and Shultz for this breathless scoop (sure, everybody already knew Rock was gay anyhow) and to Messrs. Maupin and Maley for the gossip they added.

Fortunately the expose quoted only Rock's friends and not his enemies, an exercise in restraint that has spared us the name of Rock's famous ex-lover and the details of what he likes to do in bed! I'm sure that those and other juicy tidbits will be forthcoming in the supermarket tabloids now that you've broken the story! Or do you plan a sequel?

D. W. Wade
San Francisco

Golden Hankie Award

★ After reading Steve Warren's review of Terry Baum's play *Immediate Family*, I was left wondering if his criteria for distinguishing a good play from a bad play was how many tears were shed during the performance. Making an onion pie must be a truly moving experience for Steve.

I felt privileged to be able to share Virginia and Rose's last moments together in Terry's truly moving play and brilliant performance. Whereas Mr. Warren felt the second act was "superfluous and redundant," I felt that the subtle shifting of Virginia's realization was made even more poignant by the sameness of Rose lying comatose. Using Steve's seeming rating system this would have to be a 5-star play. Mr. Warren should be applauded in a sense for being able to sense the obvious in a play, in this case Terry's dealing with the very sensitive issue of euthanasia as well as her "tour de force" performance (my, my he speaks French too . . .).

All in all I think everyone would benefit greatly from the very connected feelings Terry's play evokes, and will be enriched because of it.

And as for Mr. Warren, I think we should give him the golden hankie award and retire him to writing theater reviews for the *Chronicle*.

William Bent
San Francisco

Thanks

★ I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Marcus, and the community.

Due to his mentioning our needs in his column, within one day, there was an offer of an office, a copier, and a new telephone answering machine.

The support that is coming from the community is very much appreciated, and the money that is saved on such items, becomes money that can be given to people with AIDS in emergency financial situations.

Thank you all for helping the Fund to help others.

Alan Selby
San Francisco AIDS Fund

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LETTERS

Resist

★ Today I took the antibody test for the HTLV-3 virus, and found the process frightening and some of the "information" dangerously misleading. Although the vast majority (85-90 per cent) of people with antibody to HTLV-3 will not get AIDS, we were encouraged to begin preparing for a diagnosis of AIDS if we had this antibody. A man taking the test with me will begin looking for AIDS "treatment" the moment he gets a positive result.

If you decide to take the test, know the facts to resist these beliefs. The HTLV-3 antibody test doesn't tell you whether you even have that virus active in your body at that moment, much less whether or not you have AIDS. It simply suggests that at some time or another you came close enough to someone with active virus for your body to begin doing the work it's supposed to do — fighting off foreign invaders like the HTLV-3 virus.

It also does not tell you whether you're "infectious" or "contagious" in the slightest, despite their insisting on that conclusion at the testing site. You would need entirely separate tests to see if you had HTLV-3 virus, not antibody, in your system. Apparently only three labs in the country can do that test for the virus, and only for people in research studies. Having the HTLV-3 virus doesn't even mean you'd get the disease. The most recent CDC research from Atlanta says that only about 60 percent of those with HTLV-3 virus actually get AIDS.

Having the virus also doesn't mean that you would necessarily pass it on to somebody else, "infect" them, or that they will get AIDS as a result. No research has been done on these issues, and it's crucial that we start such experiments rather than guess from the results of antibody tests or guess from the results of hepatitis infections.

In the meantime, we should resist the attempt of this propaganda to paint people with antibody to HTLV-3 as dangerous carriers of death to anybody they touch. The testing site program, for example, never mentions sex except in the context of disease and of dying — you would never guess that sex could be joyous or even recommended in the AIDS epidemic.

Brian Smith
San Francisco

Reign of Terror

★ Isn't it time we GayMen truly realize that we are in the real sense, sharers of a Way of Seeing, and begin to use this awareness as a power?

For example, let's make a list of cuss words and look at the image/meanings which are being expressed. We will, I think, see that many of these images are homo- or man-sexual images.

Then, let's approximate the number of times on this planet (say, in one hour) the minds of what we now call Real Men or Straight Men are spontaneously, relentlessly and angrily producing these images.

Let's help them see that they are doing this.

My awareness tells me that in that dark closet (the door of which more and more GayMen are opening) is another closet, a small hidden recess in the male psyche, the existence of which sustains a kind of reign of terror in this world.

Let's open the deadly door to that place and change RealMan's self-image definitely, i.e., forever.

Leland Mellott
San Francisco

Suspicious

★ This year, for the first time, men participated in the annual Women's and Girls' Run in the Park, traditionally a women-only event. Several men ran noncompetitive, and others served as monitors along the course. Their participation — why they did it, their behavior as participants and the effects these had on the event — raises fundamental questions about women's need to define how men can and should support our struggles for equality.

The contemporary women's movement has created women-only spaces and events as an expression of women's autonomy. Autonomy is a necessary first condition for equality between the sexes. For women and men to exist in true equality, women's ideas, experiences and work have to be given the same value as men's. And for this to happen, women need time and space within which we can affirm our own values and value; this is, safe, supportive women-only space.

The San Francisco Women's Building was founded to meet this need, and as a major fundraiser for the building, the annual Women's and Girls' Run in the Park represents not only a public affirmation of women's autonomy, but an active demonstration of the power we achieve through it.

Why then would men want to participate in a women-only run? Perhaps to support the Women's Building and other community groups helping women, by raising money for them. Surely, they could do that either by sponsoring women runners or simply donating the same amount of money to the women's organization of their choice, and encouraging their female and male friends to do the same.

Or, perhaps, the men wanted to show their support for women's athletics. This seems stretching it a bit, even to me. In the fitness-obsessed Bay Area, there is no end of mixed-sex runs and other athletic events (many of them fundraisers for a variety of good causes) where women and men can show support for each

other's physical accomplishments and political beliefs. What makes this one, which is, I believe, the sole locally organized women-only run in San Francisco, so important? Why would any man feel the need to participate in it?

Because women-only events like the Women's Run do empower women, they represent a serious threat to male power which is itself based on women's dependence — physical, intellectual, economic and emotional — on men. The possibility, not to mention the reality of women's autonomy raises the specter of men's irrelevance, and nothing is more terrifying to men than the prospect of being irrelevant, especially to women.

This would explain men's need to participate in the Women's Run. They needed to show us — and themselves — that even as "noncompetitive" runners, they are still faster and stronger than most women; they can still beat us. They needed to show us — and themselves — that even when they don't run, they know more about running than women do; they have the authority to coach us, to tell us how to run as did a couple men working as monitors. (As a runner, I found this behavior particularly enraging and condescending. The usual verbal encouragement between runners is "You're looking good!" not "Uphill! Do this . . .")

In other words, to maintain their own apparently fragile image of male superiority, they needed to undermine women's confidence in our own strength and competence.

This does not mean that I believe that all women's events should be women-only or that there is no way men can support women's struggles for equality. It does mean that women need to be, at the very least, suspicious of what men often claim is support. We must define clearly what we mean by support and insist that if men truly wish to support us, they accept those definitions, even if that means they are excluded from a specific space or event.

Men may, of course, attempt to intimidate us or make us feel guilty by claiming that any conditions which exclude them are unfair or represent reverse sexism. This is an old trick. Throughout history, men have never hesitated to tell women how we should support them, and that has usually meant denying our self-worth and strength. We should feel neither intimidated nor guilty about demanding them back.

We are not after all denying men's autonomy. We are simply requesting that they respect ours.

K. Kaufmann
San Francisco

Gay Fathers Protest

★ This letter was sent to Gov. M. Dukakis of Massachusetts.

I am the President of the San Francisco Bay Area Gay Fathers and I represent approximately 350 gay men in this area who are concerned and responsible fathers of children ranging in age from a few weeks to adulthood. We formed our support group 10 years ago to confront the very thing you are advocating in Massachusetts. Bigotry and mis-information.

Fortunately here in California we have informed law makers and an enlightened voting population that no longer see gay men and women as handicapped people. We have proven ourselves to be the very best of the creative work force; responsible citizens who take an active part in governing our cities, counties, and state; and parents who care deeply for their children and have become role-models for many of our "straight" counterparts.

What you are doing in Massachusetts affects not only the statistically proven 10 percent of your state's population who are gay, it has rippled through the United States and with a mighty impact, has caused other communities great anxiety and anger.

As far as I know, I am the first single gay man in the country to adopt a child through a state agency. I did this in 1968 when my son was two years old. He was born addicted to heroin and suffered brain damage at birth. He was rejected repeatedly by "straight" couples. The choice by the San Francisco County Adoption Agency was either to institutionalize Aaron or to allow a single parent adoption.

I invite you to meet my son and myself, or better yet, the group of gay men I represent and their children before you make any further political decisions which will do nothing but promote more human misery.

Bill Jones
Bay Area Gay Fathers
584 Castro Street, #611
(415) 841-0306
San Francisco, 94114

Straight Physicians

★ This is a response to the person who wrote the letter about gay physicians.

Over the years I have seen gay and straight doctors. Since the beginning of 1984 I have been a member of Children's Hospital Health Plan. For a year I was a "person with AIDS related conditions" and now a "person with AIDS." My primary doctor was a straight woman, who was as AIDS aware and sensitive as any gay doctor I have ever seen.

I am currently being treated by two straight male doctors, who are not only well informed, but compassionate and caring human beings. I don't think I would find better care anywhere in San Francisco than I have at Children's Hospital.

Bill Mattis
San Francisco

POLITICS AND POKER



The Rock Hudson Debate

WAYNE FRIDAY

The "Guest Column" in last week's *Bay Area Reporter* by Steve Warren rates a reply. Warren, in a column titled "Rock Back in Anger," said movie idol Rock Hudson has "failed his biggest role." Presumably in announcing he was suffering with AIDS, Hudson failed to announce to the world that he was gay. Well, pardon me! It is my feeling and the feeling of many I have spoken with, that Hudson should be commended, not criticized, for the role he has played in helping bring this horrible plague to the public's attention. So what if Hudson chose not to talk about his sexuality at the time he was divulging that he was suffering from this usually fatal disease? Does it really matter?

And besides, why is it necessary for Hudson to talk about his sexuality when so many of his "friends" were so eager to do it for him. Read again the *Chronicle's* story last week in which Hudson, who had barely settled into his Paris hospital bed, when two of his San Francisco "friends" gleefully discussed the movie star's foray into gay life here. What kind of "friends" would discuss Hudson's sexuality presumably without his authorization. One even said that Hudson, when urged to discuss his sexuality some years ago, had declined to. Enough said about one's real "friends."

Harold Greene, who does a gossip shot on L.A.'s KABC-TV, asked incredulously on his show last week whether "it was possible that Rock Hudson transmitted AIDS to actress Linda Evans during love scenes" on the recent *Dynasty* episodes? Hudson had appeared on *Dynasty* last season in which he courted Evans (Krystal Carrington) and the two did have some kissing scenes. Medical experts have repeatedly stated that there is no evidence that AIDS can be transmitted through casual kissing. Still, reporter Greene went on to state that "the word around town tonight is that Linda Evans is more than a little concerned."

Digging further for that kind of sensationalism, "Harold of Hollywood" even went so far as to report that *Dynasty* producer Aaron Spelling and other ABC officials had "offered to pay for AIDS testing" for cast members and other ABC shows because of the reported reluctance of some TV actresses to have kissing scenes with possibly gay actors. To that bit of cheap journalism, producer Spelling replied, "I swear on my children, that's absolutely not true." He added "they (the people at KABC-TV) have never even called me about this."

Spelling said he had spoken with Linda Evans and that the actress was furious at the media-pumped rumors, saying, "I am not sick and I'm not frightened of anything. Where do these stories get started?" Representatives of Miss Evans issued a statement vehemently denying reports that the actress is considering a suit against Hudson for having failed to inform her and the studio that he was suffering with AIDS.

Spelling also said he had turned down requests from ABC, CBS, and NBC to use *Dynasty* footage of Hudson and Evans in news stories. True to form, the ABC station in L.A. used the footage anyway. ABC-News



Rock Hudson

president Roone Arledge later called Spelling to apologize for using the footage.

The question remains—just what is it that these people want of Rock Hudson? Would they be satisfied if Hudson were to, on his deathbed, reveal precisely how, where, and by whom, he contracted the deadly disease?

Maybe something is served if Hudson and every other rumored homosexual in Hollywood were to come out of the closet, but that is something that has to be left up to the individual—not to sensation-seeking writers or well-meaning "friends" of the celebrities.

Frankly, I think Rock Hudson took the extra step. He went much further than have other celebrities known to be suffering with the disease. Hudson is certainly not the only big Hollywood name who has AIDS. However, the others will almost certainly die with their secrets. It's much easier to claim to their graves that they had "inoperable cancer" or some other such illness than to stand up as Hudson did and say "yes, I have AIDS." There can be no question that Rock Hudson's decision to announce publicly that he suffers from AIDS has pushed this terrible epidemic to the front pages of the nation's press.

When President Reagan and his wife call up an AIDS patient to express concern, be it Rock Hudson or whoever, that's a start. Perhaps the one light of the Hudson tragedy could be that Ronald Reagan and others like him will finally take notice. We can only hope so.

As *Time* magazine said this week, "Hudson's admission that he has AIDS may reverberate further than could have been predicted. Hudson has put a face on the illness and brought it home to many who could not have dealt with it two weeks ago." *Time* goes on to say that "ruminating over his life some time ago, Hudson sounded a little world weary and said 'I spent so much time trying to figure out what life was all about, I still don't know. But now I don't give a damn.' Perhaps he does nonetheless. His announcement last week may have been the best and most dramatic gesture in his long career.

Martina Navratilova was seen browsing on Polk Street last week while in town plugging her book *Martina* (Knopf, \$16.95). Despite that Martina says "my private life is nobody's business" she goes to some length

to discuss her bisexuality and her "destructive" relationship with author Rita Mae Brown.

Los Angeles is considering an amnesty plan, fashioned after the successful one here some time ago that was the brainchild of Supervisor John Molinari. L.A. has some 2 million outstanding traffic citations and 800,000 arrest warrants now being carried on the court's computer docket.

Population figures released last week by the Census Bureau moved San Francisco from its previously held 14th national ranking to 13th, changing places with Indianapolis . . . And in West Virginia, State Sen. Robert Holliday proposed a plan that would permit love-making between prison inmates and their spouses, claiming that such a program would "improve prison inmates' chances outside and combat prison homosexuality." Questions of security and morality from other state officials apparently have doomed Sen. Holliday's plan.

In Sacramento last week, Gov. Deukmejian signed into law a measure by Speaker Willie Brown that would increase penalties to three, five, or seven years in prison for the manufacture of controlled substances . . . The political climate in West Hollywood between battling supporters of Mayor Valerie Terrigno and Councilman John Hellman, soon to become mayor of the nation's gayest city, has deteriorated to the point that the city has been paying to send them both to see a shrink.

Former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, now a commentator for CNN News, and a probable candidate for the GOP presidential nomination in 1988, predicted that Sen. Edward Kennedy will be the Democrat's choice that year . . . Those who are supposed to know tell me that Quentin Kopp is having a poll taken to see what his chances are of replacing State Sen. John Foran.

Bar Wars II, a tour of Polk Street's gay bars will take place again this Sunday (Aug. 11) as a benefit for the Godfather Service Fund which provides badly needed services directly to patients of the AIDS ward at San Francisco General.

The second year of this worthy fund and it's a hell of a lot of fun. A \$10 donation includes drinks at each bar on the Strasse starting at 10 a.m. at the Wooden Horse and winding up with a Barn-dance, buffet, and show at Kimo's. Raffles for prizes, etc., and it's all sponsored by Mark Friese and G.S.F. members. The worthiest of causes, 864-4384 for info. I will see you there.

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Youth for Service is now accepting students for the 1985 Fall Semester which starts Aug. 19 and ends Dec. 19.

Anyone 17 to 25 years of age, who has not graduated from high school, and has the time to attend classes from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is encouraged to participate in this free program.

Applications are being accepted at Youth for Service, 25 Fourteenth St. (between Harrison and Folsom Streets) in Room #7. For more information call 621-5555 and ask for Ms. R. Curiel.

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DATELINE: THE WORLD

Does Ex-Governor Maddox Have AIDS?

DION B. SANDERS



Former Georgia Governor Lester Maddox last week underwent tests to determine whether he has been exposed to the suspected AIDS virus. The tests were administered at his request following disclosures that a cancer treatment center in the Bahamas, where Maddox was treated in 1982, was shut down by the government after health officials found the suspected AIDS virus in the center's supply of blood-derived anti-cancer drugs.

Results of the tests have not been released. The 69-year-old Maddox was treated for cancer at the Immunology Research Center in Freeport, where he received up to 60 injections a day of a serum that doctors there said bolsters the body's immune system. The serum was made in part from human blood, some of which was found to have been contaminated with the HTLV-3 virus.

Health officials said that up to 1,000 people treated at the center—including Maddox and former President Jimmy Carter's late sister, Ruth Carter Stapleton—may have been exposed to the virus during their treatments. Stapleton was treated at the center in 1981. She died of pancreatic cancer in September, 1983. There was no comment from the Carter family on speculation that Stapleton's death could have been AIDS-related.

"I'd rather have straight cancer than AIDS," Maddox told reporters. "I hope I don't have AIDS, because there's more dignity with cancer. With AIDS, there's no hope."

Dr. Lawrence Burton, director of the center, hotly denied any AIDS virus contamination in his clinic's drug supply.

"There are almost 400 healthy patients that were given due dates to die (of their cancers)," Burton told reporters in New York. "Why would I want to import AIDS serum?"

Burton noted that the drugs are produced from the blood of cancer patients and from the blood of healthy donors that was collected at the clinic.

Burton acknowledged that his center treated four patients prior to 1983 who had Kaposi's sarcoma, a rare skin cancer that is one of two major AIDS-related opportunistic infections.

Maddox gained national notoriety in 1964, when he chased blacks out of his Pickwick Restaurant in Atlanta with an ax.

Two years later, running on a strong segregationist platform, Maddox was elected governor. It was the first time he had ever sought public office.

Maddox tried unsuccessfully to amend a Georgia state law that prohibited that state's governors from serving two consecutive terms. He made a comeback bid in 1974, only to be defeated.

Foster Agency Axes Contract with Gay

Less than 24 hours after state officials removed a 15-year-old youth from the foster care of a Woburn, Massachusetts gay man, a private foster care agency terminated its contract with him.

Donald M. Loveland was notified by Boston-based Action Intake Developmental Services, Inc. that his contract with the agency was being terminated in

the wake of a newly enacted policy by the Massachusetts Department of Social Services effectively banning gay and lesbian adults from becoming foster parents.

The *Gay Community News* disclosed that the state terminated its own contract with the private agency for reasons the newspaper said were unrelated to the Loveland case.

Action Intake reassigned the youth, identified only as John, from Loveland's home after John made a routine court appearance to answer burglary charges filed against him, four days after the state policy went into effect on May 28.

On the day after John was removed from Loveland's home, Action intake terminated Loveland's contract, citing his homosexuality.

Loveland said that at the time John was placed in his care, the social service worker at Action intake who coordinated the placement knew that Loveland was gay and that "it was not a problem for them."

John was placed in Loveland's care just before the *Boston Globe* disclosed the placement of two small boys in the foster care of an openly gay couple, Donald Babets and David Jean. Following the *Globe's* disclosure, the state adopted its new foster-care policy, which triggered a firestorm of controversy.

State officials called the removal of the youth "a misapplication and a misinterpretation" of the state's new policy, in the words of Mary Breslauer, spokeswoman for the state human services secretary, Phillip Johnston.

"It (the state's policy) was not meant to be retroactive," Breslauer said. "This was a decision made by a private agency acting on its own."

* * *

Radio Talk-Show Host Fired for Anti-Gay Remarks

A Pittsburgh radio talk-show host has been fired by her station for making what a station spokesman said were "extremely vicious" anti-gay remarks on the air.

Nancy Pryor, host of the Tuesday-morning program *The Nancy Pryor Report* on Pittsburgh station WEDO-AM, denounced a gay youth prom at the Irish Centre in suburban Squirrel Hill last June as a "homosexual orgy for sex perverts," that she said was sponsored with "illegal" funding by the United Way of Greater Pittsburgh.

Pryor added that Irish Centre officials were "intimidated by the homosexuals" into using the center for the prom, and that the center became "contaminated with AIDS germs."

Pryor, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for Congress on an anti-gay platform last year and who has filed a complaint against Pennsylvania Bell for listing gay organizations in its directories free-of-charge, said, "after the perverts vacate the Irish Centre . . . employees wearing gloves will carefully sanitize the premises in order to avoid the highly contagious, deadly disease of AIDS that is spread by homosexuals."

In a comment that enraged both prom organizers and Irish Centre officials, Pryor said that "The National Intelligence Data

Center will be monitoring the orgy and those perverts coming in and going from it with concealed videotape cameras and will be taking down license numbers of all cars nearby in order to identify owners."

She did not elaborate on what the NIDC was.

In her complaint against Pennsylvania Bell, Pryor claimed to have copies of tapes used by gays to "lure" small children into the gay centers listed in the directories.

Pryor, who was fired in 1981 by Pennsylvania Bell from her job as a supervisory operator for refusing to take a psychiatric examination, accused the utility of promoting homosexual activity between children and adults.

WEDO station management told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that they were cancelling her program because it had become "too extreme" and was causing potential problems for the station under the Federal Communication Commission's Fairness Doctrine.

Pryor was fired last year by rival station WPIT-AM following her Congressional campaign. Running as a Republican against incumbent Democrat Austin J. Murphy, Pryor accused Murphy of "forcing homosexuality on children." She often made campaign appearances in full military uniform, with a whip.

Murphy is a co-sponsor of a bill in Congress to amend the anti-discrimination provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include gays. He has since filed a \$1 million slander suit against Pryor.

A WPIT spokesman told the *Pittsburgh Press* that the station was forced to run her anti-gay campaign commercials because of a federal law that prohibits censorship of candidates' commercials, but "after the campaign, we dropped her. She makes Anita Bryant look like Gloria Steinem."

Meals Program Needs Help

The Gay Rescue Mission is in immediate need of a place for its meals program. The program provides a free hot dinner for more than 100 people who are at high risk of AIDS. Some of the clients have AIDS or AIDS related conditions. All are indigent.

Almost any space in the inner city that has seating for 100 will do. The food is prepared elsewhere, so a kitchen is not necessary. The space is needed for about two hours late Saturday and/or Sunday afternoons. Even an out-of-doors place will do until the rains come.

The Mission's finances are limited, but it can afford to pay a modest rent.

Also needed is a volunteer to work on the food bank on Thursdays, someone with a car to pick up food and clothing donations, men willing to take in overnighters for the emergency shelter program, and donations of left-over food from caterers and restaurants for the on-site feeding.

For further information, call 431-2188.



Jeffrey Levi is the new political director for National Gay Task Force, which he frequently represents on Capitol Hill. (Photo: Rink)

Local Organizing is New Goal for NGTF

Levi Sees Community Development as Key; National Lobby to Press for Funds

by Ray O'Loughlin

The future of the gay and lesbian movement is in local community organizing. But national organizations have a crucial role to play in developing local communities in response to the AIDS crisis. According to Jeffrey Levi, director of political and governmental affairs for National Gay Task Force, issues soon to be facing gay Americans will require action on the state and local levels instead of on the national level.

"Some of the issues that will be hitting us within six months to a year are going to be impossible to resolve on the national level," said Levi. He was referring to problems with insurance coverage and employment issues stemming from AIDS. "The Task Force has to make sure that what we're doing at the national level filters down to the local level," added Levi.

Following Virginia Apuzzo's departure as executive director of NGTF, Levi was named political director based in Washington, D.C. Rosemary Kuropat heads the organization's New York headquarters as director of administration and finance.

In a recent visit to the Bay Area, Levi talked about the purpose and program of NGTF and what he saw on the horizon for the U.S. gay community.

Levi said that he believed the AIDS crisis has contributed to the development of the gay community. He hopes that people now joining AIDS service organizations would become a part of the larger movement. "AIDS has brought a lot of people actively into the community," said Levi. "I would hope we could raise the political consciousness of these people. If we don't do that, we've lost a major opportunity."

Levi sees NGTF as fostering the creation of "vehicles for local change." He said that when he recently met with Nevada health officials regarding AIDS, he advised them to involve local gay communities in treating the health crisis. But in Nevada, there is no openly organized gay community. There are, however, concerned individuals ready to create a community.

"If someone came to NGTF with \$200,000," said Levi, "a year ago I would have used it to build our Washington operation. Now, I would hire community organizers and send them not to San Francisco, which is already organized, but to places like Reno where there are gay people waiting for that spark to reach the take off stage."

He said that lobbying on the federal level has gotten funds for local groups to carry out programs such as AIDS education. Although the first appropriation for education was small (\$150,000), that, said Levi, "meant \$20,000 for seven or eight communities and was the first education money they ever got." Those early grants were seed money for new organizations.

Now, according to Levi, the federal government is spending \$22 million on AIDS education. "It took three budget cycles, but we did it," he said, explaining that at the federal level, "incremental change" is the name of the game.

Now that major funding is becoming available for AIDS education, Levi hopes that money can be gotten for treatment programs. "I would like the U.S. government to see what the French are doing as a sort of Sputnik challenge," he said.

Although NGTF's membership remains stable at 7-8,000, that represents barely a fraction of the estimated 23 million lesbian or gay Americans. "Why we are not more able to get people to see the connection between their lives and being in the Task Force is frustrating," said Levi. "If you're not into the abstractions of civil rights, then in terms of the hard, cold cash coming back into the community for AIDS, you get a pretty big bang for the buck."

NGTF's annual budget of \$450,000 supports staff in the two offices. Program is concentrated in four areas. In addition to AIDS lobbying, the organization monitors civil rights issues such as confidentiality of blood screening tests for AIDS. Anti-gay violence is also documented and corporate employment practices and media coverage of gay issues are watched. Levi noted changes in all those areas.

"Two years ago, we went to the National Institutes of Justice for a program on anti-gay violence," said Levi. "The response then was 'what's anti-gay violence?'

Now they're very interested in the data we've collected on assaults and have set up meetings with law enforcement representatives.

Levi said it was hard to know if anti-gay violence was greater because of AIDS. That violence, he said, may well occur without AIDS. "AIDS is a cover for homophobic behavior," said Levi, "with people hiding behind a so-called public health issue."

Levi said that there were discussions underway regarding the merger of NGTF with Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL). "It is probably in the best interests of the community to merge but no damage is done if there is no merger." He said that the talks would at least produce "a more co-operative atmosphere."

With the AIDS Action Council of the Federation of AIDS-Related Organizations (FARO), Levi said he worked very closely.

For organizations such as Mobilization Against AIDS, Levi had good words. "Grassroots organizations give expression to the anger that's out there. They let people in Washington know they're not sitting on just a medical time-bomb. They also strengthen the hand of those of us working on the inside."

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Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights

Pot, Sex & Disease

by Steve Perkins

Perhaps the biggest hoax played on gay people, next to the two-year Harvey Milk political stardom blitz, was the ruse accomplished by the flower children during the summer of love to permanently associate in the minds of our innocent generation the desirable and beneficial effects of the combination of love, sex and marijuana. Only now is this incredible and disastrous hoax beginning to unravel and make itself obvious to the public awareness.

One of the most important aspects of healthy sexuality (and its eventual evolution to mature love) is the role which bodily fluids play in the physiology of the sex act. Sexual health is based entirely upon the ability of the body to defend itself against the transmission of foreign bacteria. The liquid medium which the body creates especially for the sex act is the major avenue the body uses to surround and neutralize incoming antagonistic bacteria. Marijuana, because it dehydrates the body severely, destroys entirely the body's ability to produce the liquids necessary to defend itself against disease.

The most sensual aspects of sexuality are also dependent upon the liquid medium which the body produces during healthy sexuality. Fluids produced by the body during sexuality have a totally different texture and combination than fluids which are present at other times. Oral secretions produced during an aroused state are copious, thick, and have a feeling of elasticity. These oral secretions are positively necessary for the most subtle sensuous feelings exchanged between sexual partners.

During anal sexuality, oral secretions in combination with secretions produced in the anal cavity produce a medium in which the electro-magnetic environment of the two people can be transmitted, intermingled, and exchanged. No other lubricant can provide these characteristics.

People who smoke marijuana prior to sexuality destroy completely their bodies' ability to produce these healthy, sensuous fluids, and as a result their sex is generally accompanied by disease, complaints of irritation, and a psychological response which is dulled and unappreciative.

Steve Perkins teaches the basics and the sophisticated requirements of healthy sexuality. See his classified ads, too. Counseling sessions are \$50. Call 864-8597.

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John Bush, new co-chair of Black and White Men Together, says picketing and boycotting are now the logical next steps.
(Photo: Robert Finney)

'New Militancy' for Black, White Men

National Convention Hears Plea For Confrontation of Biased Bars

by Morgan Pinney

LOS ANGELES—John Bush, a black professor from Boston, was reelected co-chair of the National Association of Black and White Men Together at its fifth annual convention in Los Angeles, July 20. He emphasized a platform of renewed militancy for the organization. Tim Wilson, of Denver, reelected as the white co-chair, said that several member chapters are now positioned for direct action after extensive documentation of racial discrimination at gay bars in their cities.

Seventy-five-year-old veteran black civil rights activist Bayard Rustin told the delegates that gay rights is the most difficult struggle of all because it is labeled anti-God, antifamily, and antichildren. "No other civil rights movement faces such heavily emotional charges from its enemies," he said.

Rustin, who Bush described as a role model for black gay youth, emphasized the need for gays to build coalitions with other minorities—and with the vast wave of workers displaced by "an economic system which must be reordered to provide jobs for all."

Back in 1963, Rustin was denounced on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Sen. Strom Thurmond condemned Rustin for his homosexuality and his earlier communist affiliation. Thurmond's attack came just prior to the Poor People's March on Washington, which the openly-gay Rustin helped organize despite the reservations of some black civil rights leaders. Rustin says that many groups came to his defense at that time because of the coalitions he had built with them.

CONFRONTING RACISM

The 200 black and white men who gathered for the four-day convention represented 20 percent of the 1,000 members in the 30 chapters around the country.

The goals adopted in the business meetings reflect a cautious approach for the coming year—encouraging new and struggling chapters, reaching out to gays about racism, educating minorities about AIDS, as well as continuing to document racial discrimination in gay businesses.

Bush emphasized that boycotts and picketing are now the logical next steps where dis-

was staged about the wisdom of closing gay bathhouses. And a moving memorial service honored members who have died. The Philadelphia chapter unveiled its professionally produced "rap" record with the message about AIDS.

The Health Committee has produced an AIDS brochure targeted at minorities. Health Committee Chairman Jon Peterson of Berkeley, reported that third-world men represent over 30 percent of male AIDS cases nationwide, and third-world women constitute over 70 percent of the national cases among women.

An exciting on-going "leadership conference" is bringing members to grips with the fact that white members and black members bring different styles to interracial gatherings. "No black meeting would be conducted in the formal and restrained manner in which these business meetings were conducted," commented Jim Ivory of San Francisco. "Blacks rely more on dynamic leaders," he said. However, the general sessions often resembled black church meetings, with whites picking up the spirit along with the blacks.

"A terrific high results from a gathering of 200 black and white men who know that the very fact of their meeting is unique—and who know that the causes they promote are just," commented Steve Dorrel of Los Angeles, Chairman of the convention committee.

AIDS Aware Baths

The new Club Body Centre Association has invited gay health clubs in five west coast locations to join the new group, founder Jack Campbell announced following a three week swing through California, Oregon and Washington State. The new members would join ten former Club Baths in the new health spa concept.

"We have extended invitations to clubs in San Diego, Long Beach, North Hollywood, Portland and Seattle to join our association," Campbell said. "Most of them already have implemented the AIDS-conscious changes in their facilities, including educational programs, that are a prerequisite for membership. In those places where changes are still needed, I found the owners committed to our program."

The Club Body Centres will expand their health fitness programs by sponsoring teams for

the 1986 Gay Games, to be held in San Francisco and Berkeley. Each of the ten founding clubs have members to form teams to compete in the 17 sports categories, including basketball, bowling, boxing, cycling, marathon, physique, pool, power lifting, racquetball, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, triathlon, volleyball and wrestling.

Association founder Campbell also announced the group's support for AIDS lobbying efforts in Washington has reached ten thousand dollars. The contributions help support a Washington-based professional lobbyist whose background includes ten years as an aide on the house appropriations subcommittee for health. The effort is credited with substantially increasing the congressional focus and approval for nearly \$50 million in new AIDS programs this year.

Grand Ducal Doings Set for Saturday

3-Way Race Could be Close As Queens Vie for Duchess

by Allen White

Saturday night there will be a new Duke and Duchess of San Francisco. It will be the result of voting by San Francisco citizens and for the first time in years, this campy contest of drag and latent royalty has a real competitive element.

There are two royal courts operating in the city. The top of the line is the Emperors and the Empresses. You don't mess with them because they have clout. The ones you remember can rip you to shreds with just a look and the ones who are forgotten are presumed to never have belonged in the position in the first place.

Then there are the Duke and the Duchess. They are, for the most part, in it for the fun. This year there is no way to predict who the winner is going to be in

the contest for Duchess. For Duke the winner is Tony Treviso, who is running without competition.

For Duchess it is a different story. There are three contestants and they are about as different as God, make-up and fairies in the night could create.

In alphabetical order, there is Deena Jones. Deena Jones has the distinction of being the Closet Ball Queen of 1984. She won the event based on a stunning stage presence. Coupled



Deena Jones (l.) wowed 'em at the Closet Ball; she's seen here with Sandy Sorrelle. (Photo: Rink)



Miss Piggi — a thinly veiled threat to the ducal crown. (Photo: Rink)



Phoebe Planters gets a boost from one of her fans, Leigh. (Photo: Rink)

simply states, "The Pig Is In." That means that Miss Piggi is making buttons or doing some constructive work for the community.

The third candidate is Phoebe Planters. Phoebe Planters has also garnered strong support. The key to winning is getting votes. Phoebe Planters has surrounded herself with several people who have been down this road many a time and know how to get people out and mark their ballot for the person they want to win.

The voting for this year's contest will be at two locations this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The locations are in front of Hibernia Bank at Castro and 18th Street and at the Stallion bar at Polk and Ellis Streets.

Though everyone seems to have a favorite, this is one year where the winner could be determined by a handful of votes. To qualify to vote a person must only be able to prove they live in San Francisco. The winner will be announced at what should be a grand and glorious party at Bimbos, located on Columbus in North Beach. ■

Speakers Bureau

Community United Against Violence needs gay and lesbian speakers to address high school students about homosexuality. If you're interested, come to a potluck (finger foods and refreshments only) to hear about the experiences of other speakers, some of them hilarious, Aug. 10, 2 p.m., at 437 Webster St., San Francisco, or phone 864-7233 or 346-1167 to RSVP. ■

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More Turmoil At Lambda Funeral

Doors Closed as Neptune Society Fires Second Gay Undertaker

by George Mendenhall

It's a case of *deja vu* at Lambda Funeral Guild. For the second time, the Neptune Society has fired its gay funeral director. And for the second time, that gay undertaker has alleged that Neptune wants gay business but is insensitive to gays.

Lambda Funeral Guild, the cut-rate gay funeral service, has reopened its Castro area office after a one-month closure. A third gay manager, Robert Reed, has taken charge and says Lambda will now expand its operation. However, Carmen Serrano — who was fired as manager on July 5 — questions the depth of the commitment of Lambda's owner, The Neptune Society.

Over 90 percent of Lambda's 125 cases over the past 18 months have been AIDS-related. The founder of Neptune, Richard Jongordon, estimates that his firm now handles over 50 percent of the AIDS-related cases in the city. Neptune has eight offices in the Bay area with 45 employees. It is the largest low-cost funeral service in the country, performing primarily cremations.

Jongordon admits that the 6 or 7 cases Lambda is handling each month is not enough to make the service financially viable, but he muses, "We will grow slowly — without big advertisements. Like Neptune did. Maybe we have been a little guilty about Lambda hanging out there on a limb as far as advertising goes. But we want to be subtle in letting people know we are here. We will remain open and depend on word-of-mouth and some newspaper announcements." This low-key approach caused a split between Lambda's first gay manager, Tom Simpson, and Jongordon.

THE DISPUTE

Serrano was dismissed for her "inability to follow company

policy." The lack of promotional funds were not her only difference with Jongordon.

"Here we were serving the gay community for 18 months but increasingly there were rules and regulations that are homophobic. Neptune insisted that we go along with other mortuary policies that I had conflict with," Serrano said.

Bay Area Reporter inquired about some of the accusations about Lambda:

- Milton Periera, former general manager of Neptune, said that the Lambda office "is the only office that was not permitted to accept out-of-state checks." He added, "Parents would arrive here from another state and find that their credit was unacceptable at Lambda."

Serrano said this caused considerable additional grief and embarrassment to her. Jongordon claims that the check policy is the same throughout Neptune and that checks for services (not goods) are acceptable.

- In the removal of a person who had AIDS, a body bag is used and a \$20 charge is made for the bag. Jongordon says the bag is used in AIDS cases because "it is considered infectious — because it is not known that it is not infectious." He says the bag "gives protection to our field staff."

- Jongordon has issued an inner-office memo which explains, "The Neptune Society will not dress, cosmetize, nor will we perform a viewing when the deceased is an infectious case. So for a funeral service it must be a closed casket service or em-

balmed." Serrano says, "Previous to this, I had allowed families and lovers to view the body before cremation."

The Neptune founder said "Someone might hug or kiss the deceased so we have to have a degree of sanitation, which happens to be embalming. Exceptions are made. We are more liberal in this respect than others."

- Lambda literature originally stated that it was "fully staffed and managed by gay people." That phrase has been dropped. Both former Lambda managers unsuccessfully promoted the hiring of more openly gay people. Jongordon says that additional gay staff will be added when needed, but the intent is to have "one gay person as manager — backed up by our large organization."

- Serrano established a good relationship with the AIDS Foundation and the Shanti Project although she says her small Lambda donations to these groups were recently denied by Neptune. She had to pay her own membership fee in Lesbian Bay Area Career Women where she is a director. Jongordon states, "She can go to different things every night, but we have to be selective in our donations." He said Neptune donations now go to Hospice.

LAMBDA'S FUTURE

The former Lambda managers, Serrano and Simpson, are not optimistic about the firm's future but Jongordon insists "There is no intention of closing Lambda." He adds, "It will not blossom overnight. We knew it would take time. We dismissed two managers because they were not in tune with our philosophy." Jongordon had praise for his new manager, Robert Reed — "one of our most valued, key people."

"We are starting from scratch again," Reed said. "Simpson was a radical who talked about Judy Garland songs at services and chartreuse caskets." Actually, it was a column in the *Bay Area Reporter* — not Simpson — which made that commentary. Reed added that Lambda would now be extensively advertised in the Gay community and eventually add two staff members.



Carmen Serrano is second gay funeral director to be ousted by Neptune, which operates the Lambda Funeral Guild.

(Photo: Rink)

are those where something unique is requested.

"I could have gotten a higher paying job elsewhere, but I wanted to serve my people. However, I felt my hands were being tied at Lambda. He said he hopes it will prosper as "it is unique — the only gay funeral service. By its nature it had different needs than the other offices, but the rug was pulled out from under the managers. I have a great deal of respect for Jongordon but I frequently disagree with him. He is kind and generous and his idea of low-cost funerals has been a great idea."

SOMETHING UNIQUE

Looking back over her past 18 months in the Lambda office, Serrano reflects, "Lambda was special. I got calls from people who wanted to view the body and special things like the pink casket the Fat Fairy had. I want people in my community to have those things. Most people want conventional funerals, but there

Pereira, who is gay himself, was second in command to Jongordon until he recently went into business for himself and opened a florist shop. He said he is not sure what will happen at Lambda. He said he hopes it will prosper as "it is unique — the only gay funeral service. By its nature it had different needs than the other offices, but the rug was pulled out from under the managers. I have a great deal of respect for Jongordon but I frequently disagree with him. He is kind and generous and his idea of low-cost funerals has been a great idea."

Serrano will now seek employment as a property investment counselor. "I also want to do some volunteer work with Shanti. After 12 years in the funeral business and the experience with Lambda, I need a break."

Simpson is a private funeral counselor to the gay and lesbian community. He is located at the Comisky-Roche Funeral Home.

Meals for People With AIDS

No one with AIDS or the AIDS related complex need worry about nutrition or lugging home heavy bags of groceries, if THE OPEN HAND has its way. A non-profit organization with Zen Buddhist affiliations, THE OPEN HAND plans to provide meals to the above starting August 1.

These will include a bag lunch consisting of a sandwich made with Tassajara Bakery bread, two fruits in various forms (fresh, juice, freshly stewed, canned) a

salad and dessert.

Because, at this point, THE OPEN HAND receives no funding, they have to charge \$4.25 for the two meals (entrée and bag lunch).

To order use the coupon below. Payment a month in advance is required. Mail your check with the coupon to: THE OPEN HAND, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush St., San Francisco, Ca. 94109, or call Ruth at 775-1118 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Are you confused or concerned about how to get yourself through the AIDS epidemic? Would you like some caring, professional help and support in the company of like-minded gay men who understand your concerns?

The AIDS Health Project sponsors low-cost workshops for people who are at risk for AIDS and who want to learn how to keep themselves mentally and physically healthy. In a small-group setting, you will learn how to:

- avoid exposure to AIDS.
- reduce the stress of daily life.
- handle emotions related to the AIDS crisis.
- build a social support network that works for you.
- develop your own health improvement plan.
- have sex that's healthy and fun.

Call us at **626-6637**

This project is funded through the Department of Public Health, City and County of San Francisco

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CUAV

Summer Violence Is Increasing

Last month CUAV received 60 reports of violent assaults—double the number of reports taken during the same month last year. The month of July also appears to show unprecedented numbers of assault reports called into CUAV.

There are a number of issues which come forth after reading the assault reports from June and July. First, assaults on Muni continue to climb. Muni has apparently issued a new set of instructions to drivers on how to handle verbal and physical altercations. After receiving criticism by CUAV on their proposed instructions, however, the final draft has not been made available to this office.

But CUAV also continues to get reports about Gay male on Gay male violence. We have received ongoing reports of a Gay man picking someone up in a bar, only to find himself robbed once they arrive at home. Be careful out there! The other disturbing trend that is rarely discussed by our community or by members of the criminal justice system is Gay domestic violence. At issue: how can we get a project started that deals with Gay male domestic violence?

Finally, and perhaps most alarming, there are several reports of male and female rape. If you or anyone you know has been raped or physically assaulted please report it to CUAV: 864-7233.

QUICK HITS

33 ASHBURY

The two victims were riding on the 33 Ashbury bus toward the Castro area. The three assailants were on the back of the bus and were yelling "there goes the faggot . . ." One of the victims got up from his seat and told them to stop their derogatory comments. One of the assailants then got out of his seat and hit the victim in the eye, causing an abrasion. The second victim got up to assist the first victim and he was also hit in the eye.

According to the police report that was filed, the Muni driver called for assistance and a squad car pulled in front of the bus. The arresting officer observed the assault and attempted to separate the victim and assailant. The assailant then struck the officer in the face. The assailants were both placed under arrest for assault and battery.

15TH/BEAVER

The victims were approached by their neighbors, who had been hostile. One of the neighbors hit the first victim in the face. The neighbor then called the victims "AIDS carriers." The victims called the police and the police cited the neighbor for assault.

The next day, a group of men on motorcycles went to the neighbor's house and some time later they emerged and drove up to the victims' house, gunned their engines and screamed anti-Gay epithets.

This latter incident was reported to Mission Police Station. Mission Police then placed a "passing call" on the victims' home and police officers are now driving around their home several times each day to prevent further incidents.

GOLDEN GATE PARK

The victim was a monitor for the Women's Run in the Park, a benefit for the Women's Building. As she was directing traffic, a man in a vehicle approached at an accelerated speed. The man came to an abrupt stop in the middle of the road and narrowly missed the victim.

The victim informed the assailant that he would have to move his vehicle and turn around

DEATHS

Michael Frawley

Michael Frawley died August 6 in San Francisco at the age of 57.

A native of Ireland, for the past 16 years, Michael was part owner of the Pendulum bar, the first gay bar in the Castro area. He was also active in the Gay Softball League. He did much charity work, especially for St. Anthony's and for senior citizens.

An old-fashioned Irish wake will be held at the Pendulum at a future date. Memorial services are being planned through Sullivan funeral directors. For further information, call the Pendulum, 863-4441.

Charles Tanner

Charles Lee Tanner died July 26 of non-AIDS related encephalitis, in Beverly Hills. His funeral was held

July 30 in Santa Monica and featured a stirring eulogy by his long-time Los Angeles friend Doug Chadwick. His Bay Area friends gathered to remember him on Aug. 4, each one clutching a champagne glass and offering yet another I-can't-believe-he-did-that Chuck Tanner story.

Chuck's life was a full one, a life that took him on new adventures almost daily. A trip to the framing store was turned into a four-hour discourse about how one must "always pay attention to detail . . . especially around gay men."

Chuck's professional life took him to the top of the heap for design firms in San Francisco, working for both London Associates and Primo Angeli Graphics. After achieving these suc-

cesses, he turned his imaginative eye to civic duty by being elected to the board of directors of Theatre Rhinoceros and redesigning the theatre's logo.

David Goble

David P. Goble, 44, died July 16 at Victorian Convalescent Hospital in San Francisco after a short illness. David was born January 1, 1941 in Spokane, WA.

He lived and worked in San Francisco the past 14 years, and was a veteran having served three years in the U.S. Army. David is survived by his lover, Richard L. Hunter, and close friends in the Bay Area. Dissemination was Aug. 3 at Yosemite. David was loved by his friends and shall be greatly missed.

Chuck Henry

Chuck Henry, 45, died peacefully in my arms on August 2 at San Francisco General Hospital. Following slowly declining health, Chuck was diagnosed with AIDS and did not have the strength to recover. He is remembered by his friends who were so supportive and by his family, particularly his sister Cara who I am proud to call family.

Chuck, you are so beautiful and I love you as only you can know. We were in the right place at the right time, and what followed has been the best seven years of our lives. You will always be especially around gay men."

Chuck's professional life took him to the top of the heap for design firms in San Francisco, working for both London Associates and Primo Angeli Graphics. After achieving these suc-

Robert Lewis

Robert T. Lewis died on August 2 at Mt. Zion Hospital after a valiant struggle with AIDS. He had just reached his 31st birthday.

Robert, originally from Pass-a-grille, Miss., was proud to be an honorary citizen of New Orleans. He was a gentle, loving person with a passion for streetcars, the Kennedys, his cat Monty and Southern cooking.

Robert, your many loving friends wish you well on your journey into the light.

For information on Robert's Memorial Service call 771-1272.

Louis Cacciatore

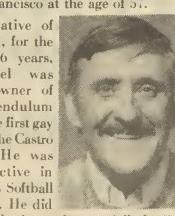
Louis Cacciatore died of pneumocystis pneumonia and AIDS complications on July 20.

Lou, originally from the East Coast, truly made San Francisco his home. The "King of the 21st Street Hill" brought great times to us, and will be missed by many people in many ways. Lou will not miss the San Francisco Opera House; the opera house, however, will miss Lou.

Lou was best known for his love of Italian opera, cooking, drama and Italian "family" warmth. Lou left us, without a doubt, at the most peaceful stage of his life.

Private memorial services were held on July 24. Donations to Lou's memory should be made to the San Francisco Opera or the Shanti Project.

Lou will never be forgotten by those whose lives he touched.



OUR BOYS NEED BLOOD

Women's Day Blood Drive, August 17.

Lesbians: Help solve an urgent crisis in our community.

People with AIDS need blood, and gay men generally are excluded as blood donors. Our blood is the least likely to be contaminated by the AIDS virus. Our blood is urgently needed to build a reserve of blood and blood by-products for the ever-increasing number of AIDS patients.

Stand with our brothers in fighting the AIDS epidemic.

On Saturday, August 17 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, a mobile blood donation unit will visit the Castro to serve women participating in the Women's Day Blood Drive. For your convenience, and to save time, we ask you to call now to schedule a specific appointment and receive additional information.

Fight AIDS. Give blood. Call 863-6761.

A project of the Lesbian Caucus of the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, in conjunction with the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank of San Francisco and Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

GREATER BAY NEWS

Health Providers Won't Comply With Berkeley's Partners Plan

They Refuse to Sign Up the Domestic Partners Of City Employees Despite Historic Ordinance

by Charles Linebarger

Eight months into Berkeley's historic domestic partner's health plan for city employees, an expected snag has been hit. The three major health providers to the city have refused to sign on the domestic partners of city employees. This refusal comes despite the new city ordinance which gives these people the same rights to health coverage formerly given to spouses of city employees.

Tom Brougham, the president of the East Bay Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club and the initiator of domestic partnership legislation in Berkeley, said he believes this is only a temporary obstacle to the plan's success.

Berkeley offers its employees four health plans from which to choose—Kaiser, Rockridge, HEALS, and a self-insured plan run by the city. There is also a separate dental program.

According to Brougham, the three private health providers have so far refused to sign up domestic partners but the city-run self-insured health plan and dental plans are available now.

NEGOTIATIONS

The Berkeley City Council, which instituted the domestic partnership plan eight months ago, voted on Tuesday, July 30, to direct the city manager and his

staff to begin formal negotiations with the three recalcitrant providers. The Council hopes, according to Brougham, to completely implement its domestic partnership ordinance, as soon as possible.

"I knew this would happen," Brougham noted in regard to the refusal of the health carriers to carry domestic partners. "This is just the first step. The next step is to bring pressure to bear on these contractors or else to find

others who will work with the city."

Brougham believes that now the city negotiator will buckle down "and do some serious negotiating. I think there is an excellent chance it will break in our favor and if it doesn't we will just have to find an additional contractor outside of these three. And as a last resort the city could contract with an insurance company rather than an HMO."

In the almost three quarters of a year since the plan was passed by the city council, only 53 couples have signed up for health benefits under the domestic partner's ordinance, Brougham said. An additional 11 couples have opted for the dental plan. Of the 53 couples currently signed up for health benefits, as domestic partners, only four are same-sex couples.

"This is lower than I expected," Brougham said. "But I think it will rise in the future as people gain more confidence in the city plan. Maybe Berkeley should do a little more affirmative action in hiring gay people."

South Bay AIDS Counselors

ARIS, a program funded by private donations, is designed to provide emotional support for people with AIDS, and their significant others. Recently, 15 members from the South Bay were trained by the Shanti Project from San Francisco, and are now available as volunteers. The second training session will occur in late August and add 30 new volunteers.

Documented cases of AIDS are increasing in Santa Clara County. This increase in cases has also increased the need for counseling support for those facing this life-threatening illness, and those deeply affected by the approaching or actual illness and/or death of others. ARIS provides one-to-one support relationships through home or hospital visits.

Interested volunteers may apply and will be screened by the ARIS Board. People requesting information or services may contact the Project at (415) 965-0925 or (415) 497-5101.

OAKLAND

The Duchess Has No Heir

PRIMACY PREORATION (A Witnessing Nose)

Last Sunday was absolutely the perfect day for an alfresco affair; unfortunately, concern in coronations is definitely ebbing as witnessed by the scant score plus on hand as the first (and only?) Royal Grand Duke and Duchess Elect, Paul and Lady Randi stepped down from their year of reign.

Lack of planning, and enthusiasm, was too evident. Naturally, it was late getting started — those supposedly thought to be in charge seemed to be waiting for others supposedly thought to be in charge to take charge! The lack of a formal program added confusion to the scene and hastily, hand-scribbled notes were used as the format of the afternoon. A stepping-down with no heirs apparent is too new of an item to have established admonitions and guidelines, so the catch-as-catch-can plan had to be incorporated.

The exiguous group endured the all-too-typical pantomime associated with these types of gatherings, with Empress Billy's "sister" from Sacramento, Candi, gleaning the lion's share of not only the spotlight but costume changes. The Ladies Fuji, Johnny, Stephanie, Randi, and Cha Cha added their energies throughout the afternoon.

Lady Lennie, the sole candidate as successor, was awarded the special title of Lady High Chamberlain for the duration of the current Royalty of ACIE. Unfortunately, Lady Lennie was unable to perform; No preparation had been made for live entertainment. "Besides," said Lennie, "It wouldn't be fair to the girls had I sung. They worked so hard on their pantomime." Now, that's a state of affairs that needs some keen analyzing.

The titles of Royal Grand Duke and Duchess are now the property of Sam and Mary (Town & Country), and announcements as to their uses should be forthcoming anon.

CALLOW CONSECRATION (A "One-More-Time" Nose)

Alameda County Imperial Empire announces its Coronation '85, "The Four Seasons" in "Feathers & Flash — Flesh & Fantasies." It will be Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Oakland Convention Center (George P. Scotian Memorial), 550 Tenth Street. Ticket prices are \$12 prior to Sept. 12; \$15 thereafter, and at the door.

The out-of-town show this year will be at the Turf Club, Friday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m. The Victory Brunch will be at Paradise, Sunday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m.

If you are planning a costume to fit the theme "The Four Seasons," remember that "no bare buttocks or women's bare breasts will be allowed. No animals, open fire or motor vehicles may be used." Well! That certainly takes the fun and kicks out of that!

Would that the powers that be could embrace five answers from the Emperor and Empress application on the ballots to make voting less of a popularity poll. The responses to "Please define the purpose of Alameda County Imperial Empire, What set goals do you have for Alameda County Imperial Empire, How do you propose to achieve the goals, What changes would you make to better the climate of the gay community in this county, and How do you propose to accomplish the changes you have mentioned," if made public, would make interesting score cards not only during the Coronation, but also during the year of reign.

POTPOTURRI (A Here-and-There Nose)

Little Mother will disturb her hiatus long enough to hold an auction for Pierre, at Paradise on Sunday, Aug. 25. She needs merchandise to sell, so contact her at 430-1343 or bring items early on the day of the auction at Paradise. The auction will begin at 4 p.m.

On that very same Sunday, at

NEZ PAS

the very same time, Rick Woolley will once again have his "Hat and Sunglasses" Party at Bill's the Eagle. This "good time, fun party" will feature a barbecue, raffles, and a \$50 prize for best hat and sunglasses. Proceeds will go towards the Emperor and Empress's court pins for Coronation '85.

A few busy days and nights are coming up at the Turf Club. On Wednesday, Aug. 14, will be the Leo Party, with busy Bob Sander entertaining at the piano, 8 p.m. The following weekend will feature the "famous" Carnival on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Aug. 23, 24, and 25. This is always a fun time, and draws huge crowds daily (and nightly, too). Then on Saturday, Sept. 7, the Turf Club will feature a "Monte Carlo" night—Black Jack, craps, etc.—with the benefits going to the God-father fund.

Still down Hayward way, the Hayward Gay Sheriff Float Committee is planning an affair on Sunday, Aug. 18. Teaser fliers are now out, with more details to follow.

Paul, David, and Val are on the lookout for a few good men and women! A softball game between the guys and the gals is being organized, with three male players being chosen from each of the participating bars. Val is gathering together the women's team. As a handicap, Val wants the guys to bat opposite of how they normally bat.

This Sunday is Revol's 11th Anniversary, and next Saturday is Lake Lounge's 7th Anniversary. Try not to miss either of these extraordinary events.

A reminder that the fabulous Tavern Guild picnic will be at Hidden Valley Ranch in Fremont on Sunday, Sept. 15.

You can lead a horse to water, but if you can get him to do the back stroke, you've really got something. I'm smiling. Love,

Nez



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Prison Rape: Society's Tool for Political Control of Inmates

Male Rape Problem Is Out of the Closet Though Prisoners and Wardens Deny It

by Tom Cahill

Rape—even the mere threat—has been used by men since prehistory to exploit women by intimidation. But coming into sharper focus now is the idea that although rape is indeed political—an act of domination by humiliation—it is not confined to the control of women alone. Men are being raped too, for the same reasons women are, and—like their sister survivors—more and more of them are beginning to talk about their experience.

The picture which emerges is a society that not only condones, but encourages rape as a method of controlling criminal and rebellious elements as well as women. The majority of those who make, interpret, and enforce the law have long turned a deaf ear to inmate rape. And only in recent years has the media begun investigating rape and sexual slavery behind bars.

"This is the kind of thing that's so bad you shut your mind to it," Judge Vincent Femia of Maryland's Prince George's County Circuit Court told Lorretta Tofani of *The Washington Post* in 1982. "It's easier to blot it out than to come to grips with the fact that it's happening in our society," the Judge confessed to Tofani. Tofani won a Pulitzer Prize in 1983 for her series on inmate rape at Prince George's County Detention Center. The head turnkey there lost his job.

Inmate rape is not a major problem at San Quentin Prison, Nikola Frye, acting public information officer, told Beth Asheley of the Marin County, California, *Independent Journal* in August 1984. "In the four years I've been here, I have heard of three," said Frye.

What the prison spokesperson failed to tell the journalist is the cruelest fact of life in confinement, the inmate code of swift retribution in which the life expectancy of a "snitch" is measured in minutes.

Among male victims of inmate rape, what may create even more reticence than rating is the macho factor—the myth that real men do not communicate their emotions, much less a humiliation.

ONE IN TEN

Only one in ten inmates raped in confinement reports the assault, is the "guess" of Dr. Ron Sable of Cermack Health Services in Cook County, Illinois, according to *Parade* magazine, Jan. 20, 1985. My own estimate is that one in a 100 males raped in confinement report their abuse and it would take years of research and a fortune to prove me wrong. Since San Quentin has been recognized as one of the most brutal and racist prisons in America by several magazines, even one hundred rapes a year there sounds conservative to me.

Explaining the rape victim's reluctance to report the abuse while still in confinement, David Rothenberg wrote in his article on the horror behind bars in *The New York Times*, Jan. 22, 1977. "Prison officials know this, yet they continue to offer low statistics on prison rape, claiming nothing can be done unless victimized inmates agree to prosecute attackers." Rothenberg is executive director of the Fortune Society (39 W. 19th St., New York City 10011), a self-help group for ex-offenders.

Thomas L. Spaulding (#175199) not only brought charges against his assailant, but also filed suit against the State of Michigan for refusing to prosecute this rapist. Soon after his arrival in Jackson Prison, Michigan, in May 1984, the slightly-built, mild-mannered Caucasian was beaten and raped by a young, powerfully-built Black inmate. Beside his age, over 50, Spaulding's courage breaks the profile of the average victim of rape in prison.

In Nov. 1984, the Federal Court of Eastern Michigan denied suit and Spaulding is now going public with the aid of People Organized to Stop Rape of Imprisoned Persons (P.O. Box 246, Napa, CA 94559). This is an abolitionist group trying to end sexual slavery and rape in confinement.

HOMOPHOBIA

Another aspect of the macho factor that restrains male victims of inmate rape from communicating more is homophobia. While the rape of a man by another man or the rape of a woman by another woman is often called a homosexual act, this is entirely misleading for two reasons.

1. Rape is an act of domination; not an act of sex at all.
2. The overwhelming majority of inmates who rape as well as their victims are heterosexual. Very few truly Gay inmates rape and although many are victims, they are still far fewer than straight victims simply because of population ratio.

As well as misleading, the term "homosexual rape" is also dangerous because of the very low level of awareness of prisoners as well as society in general concerning homosexuality. When a young, uneducated, inexperienced heterosexual inmate is raped, his or her trauma is often heightened because of homophobia. Males of course suffer this much more than females. In confinement, the male victim—whether straight or Gay—bears the ignominy of being called a "faggot" or a "pussy" or some other such vile sexist label.

Thus the victim loses his "manhood," but that of the rapist is enhanced. For young, male heteros already suffering from homophobia, this can be tragic. Penologists believe most suicides as well as most violence in confinement is caused by rape and/or sexual harassment.

In 1977, a rash of suicides and attempts by inmates of jails in New York City created much concern and calls for investigation. "Yet no one acknowledged that suicide is a 'given' option for sexually abused prisoners," wrote Rothenberg in his article in *The New York Times*, describing inmates' Catch-22 situation.

The victim can remain silent; almost guaranteeing continued

assaults and forced prostitution. The victim can request protective custody and even though staying silent, he or she is automatically labeled a "snitch" and a "contract" for death results. In protective custody, the inmate is also cut off from the very few amenities offered the general prison or jail population as well as the support of friends.

The victim can kill or attempt to kill his or her attacker(s); considered the only honorable thing to do among inmates. Whether successful or not, years could be added to his or her term. The fourth option is suicide.

"I belong to a big boxer and would rather not, but I don't know how to get out of it," wrote an inmate of a Federal prison in New York to Prison-Ashram Project (Rt. 1, Box 201-N, Durham, NC 27705), which tends to the spiritual needs of prisoners nationwide.

An inmate of a Florida prison wrote to friends not long ago that he was forced to shave his



Behind the barbed wire, San Quentin Prison—and an unacknowledged crisis in prison rape. (Photo: Rink)

legs and chest and was repeatedly raped by a dozen men.

"Can there be any kind of violence as low as this?" wondered the prisoner.

ONE CASE

In an article published Dec. 2, 1979, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported the humiliation of an inmate in St. Charles County Jail in Missouri. "... Everett, in apparent distress, was made to open his shirt and display a brassiere," said Lonz Rash, a jail trustee. He related how Patrick E. Trimble referred to Jerry James Everett as his "punk" and offered the young man to Rash for a carton

of cigarettes while another man in the cell fondled Everett.

In addition to having been raped and forced into virtual slavery, the young auto theft suspect had been tortured, the letters "D" and "C" were found branded into his arms along with other burns probably made by cigarettes. The initials were those of two nine-year-old girls brutally raped by Trimble.

Everett had been found hanging in his cell. So frightened had he been of the inmate code of silence that in the note he left, he didn't give the real reason for his suicide. So overwhelmed by the horror was Rash, that he broke the code of inmate honor

(Continued on next page)

Prison Rape

(Continued from previous page)

and testified against Trimble.

"I have nightmares about it," Ronald Fridge, 18, told Loretta Tofani of *The Washington Post* in 1982 about his rape while in the Maryland jail for a minor offense of which he was acquitted a week later. "It makes you lose your mind," said the young, Black waiter.

"I was aggressive because I was afraid," said Francis Harper, who raped other inmates in the same jail. This gives credence to the claim of some rapists in confinement that they did it so they themselves wouldn't be assaulted—rape or be raped.

Might society via the criminal justice system condone this barbarism as a hidden deterrent to crime and rebelliousness?

Might correctional authorities encourage rape and slavery as a method of controlling inmates by the old military philosophy of divide and conquer? Thus physically stronger and more aggressive prisoners could be deliberately set against the weaker, more passive ones; bending like rubber tires only each other, rather than guards.

A "gorilla cage" in prison parlance is a cell deliberately overcrowded and racially mixed so as to make a tinderbox for an unwary prisoner.

MY STORY

"Fresh meat," announced the burly, young Chicano loud enough for the grinning guard to hear as I entered just such a gorilla cage in Bexar County Jail, San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 14, 1968. For an extra ration of

Jello, my cellmates beat, tortured and gang-raped me for 24 hours until an ex-con I knew got word to my assailants via the jungle telegraph that I wasn't a child molester as they had been told.

For the two years before my rape, I had been a fulltime political activist, publishing an underground newspaper called *Inferno* among other things. Ten years later I learned I may have been a victim of "Cointelpro," the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program to crush the anti-Vietnam War and civil rights movement. Evidence from the Bureau's own files indicate they may have set me up to be attacked. And in one memo, the Bureau took credit for running me out of Texas a few months after I was jailed on a minor charge.

What better way to muzzle a political troublemaker since the victim is left devastated for years, silenced by his or her humiliation?

Some analysts claim it often takes as long as ten years for the trauma of rape to pass. Others believe longer for males—again, the macho factor. If and when the rage does surface in the advanced stage of *rape trauma syndrome*, it is sometimes misdirected and/or self-destructive. Also at this time, the survivor has a deep-seated need "to be heard, understood, believed, and accepted."

RAGE

Twelve years after my rape, as I began intense psychotherapy, I also began trying to communicate my experience via the media. By the summer of



1984, I felt totally frustrated. The rage surfaced! I fasted two months during which time one paper published a story. Soon after, another larger one—the *San Francisco Chronicle*—sent a reporter to interview me.

After waiting several weeks for the story to appear, while my health began rapidly deteriorating, I went to the *Chronicle* office to find out why the paper did not consider the story newsworthy.

Prevented from entering the newsroom by a security guard, I was instead allowed to talk to an editor by phone. After identifying myself, but before I could ask my question, the newsman rudely hung up. Raped again! By a newspaper!

On the sidewalk in front of the *Chronicle* building, I assumed the lotus position, meditating and praying for a few minutes. I then smashed one of the plate glass doors, resumed my seat and waited for the police. Because I refused to cooperate in jail—even refusing release—I was placed in solitary where I spent three days naked and cold before I was carted off to the psych ward of a local hospital. There I was threatened with being force-fed and possibly chemically lobotomized at a prison hospital five hundred miles away from family and friends.

Today, in addition to bearing the stigma of a rape victim, I may also be a sociopath. This is typical of many rape victims. Others, feeling humiliated and powerless, become rapists themselves.

How many of us rape victims will ever achieve directorship of

Fortune Five Hundred companies? How many of us will become chronic welfare recipients? How many of us will continue the vicious cycle of vengeance?

HOW MANY?

Just how many of us are there? According to *Prison Law Monitor* for Nov./Dec. 1979, one out of five inmates may be raped in confinement.

More men may be raped behind bars than the total of women raped in confinement and in free society, claim Carl Weiss and David Friar in their book, *Terror In The Prisons* (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1974).

"As of this moment, our prison population includes an estimated 175,000 Americans in some state of sexual slavery," reported Kevin Starr in the *San Francisco Examiner*, May 28, 1982. "Americans deprived, in my opinion, of basic constitutional guarantees against cruel and unusual punishment," he added. This of course is a violation of the Eighth Amendment, but not the Thirteenth which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude "except as a

(Continued on next page)



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Prison Rape

(Continued from previous page)
punishment for crime."

"The slavery that is inherent in our prison system is of the constitutionally permissible sort, an indictment of our society so basic that few will acknowledge it," stated Michael A. Kroll, a freelance writer specializing in issues of justice, in a letter to me February 22, 1985.

SOLUTIONS

How can we end intimate rape and the resulting violence?

At a conference of prison administrators in 1977, some officials admitted "that the single greatest difficulty is the violence that emerges from sexual assaults," wrote Rothenberg in his article. Yet of the several hundred workshops at the conference, not one was concerned with this problem.

How many rape support groups can now be counted behind the fortress walls of America's correctional institutions? Scant few, I would guess with budget cuts and longer sentences leading to over-crowding and understaffing as never before.

Would more funds really help? The criminal justice system is an "industry," providing livelihood for those who process and warehouse society's mistakes and discards. "It would be like me injecting tuberculosis into various people in order to have a job," Dr. Sam Shepard—a famous prisoner—once said of those who profit from the misfortune of others.

Hardware—more guns and clubs—is what many correctional officials want. These are, of course, the hardliners still influenced by J. Edgar Hoover who once said, "In our prisons,

I want to see groups of highly-trained, enthusiastic men of law enforcement, properly supported by equipment, appropriation, and freedom from paralyzing influence."

Right now in San Quentin Prison, two inmates share a cell smaller than the kennel of a single dog in the SPCA facilities in nearby San Francisco.

Dr. Karl Menninger, psychiatrist and penologist, blames overcrowding in confinement as the chief cause of inmate rape. Every person must have a minimum amount of living space or that person could become mentally disturbed and attack like a cornered animal. Chickens, for instance, jammed together, will cannibalize each other in the pecking order of survival of the fittest.

More money for more staff would be necessary to implement the suggestion of Dr. Ron Sable of Cermack Health Services in Illinois, who advocates increased surveillance of institutional blind spots, such as shower rooms, stairways, corridors, storage and transportation areas, where most rapes take place."

Black plastic trash bags were draped over the bars of cells in Prince George's County Detention Center so rapists could do their dirty work unhindered by guards at times only a few feet away, wrote Loretta Tofani in her series.

IN SAN FRANCISCO

In the San Francisco City/County Jail, prisoners are screened by a male nurse before being locked up. Those most vulnerable to rape are separated from more violence-prone in-

mates. Gays can even be segregated from heterosexuals if they want. This could be the result of a study—though incomplete—made by Dr. John DeCecco of the Behavioral Science Department of San Francisco State University.

In 1980, Dr. DeCecco was awarded a two-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to study sexual assault in the San Francisco Jail. After hearing one horror story after another, he began feeling like he had been raped himself, he related to me in a telephone interview, Feb. 22, 1985. From these accounts of the brutality behind bars, he became stressed-out and despondent.

When the funding agency added frustration to his burden by placing too many senseless restrictions on his research, he stopped the program with permission from his dean. Now he even hates to discuss the subject. It took me three months to get him to talk with me.

And valuable data that could alleviate much human suffering remains moldering in some file cabinet, unable to be passed along to someone willing to put it to use because of academic red tape.

Perhaps the only effective way to end sexual abuse in correctional institutions is to make authorities accountable via lawsuits. Several inmate victims of rape have won civil damage claims; others are pending. Tom Spaulding of Jackson Prison is now suing the State of Michigan for failing to adequately protect him.

With an inmate population of more than six thousand, Jackson Prison may be the largest in the country. It is located near Detroit and is known as a racial pressure cooker. Uriah "Wolf" Steppenwolf (#126939), a biker serving two natural life sen-

tences for first degree murder, is also confined here.

A hefty six-footer, Wolf stopped the rape of another inmate in May 1984 and has been in protective custody ever since trying to avoid more violence. In addition to helping Spaulding, locked up nearby, he counsels others in protective custody and has requested permission from prison authorities to establish a rape trauma center or support group so victims could offer each other the therapy of a sympathetic ear.

Along with this writer, Wolf is temporary co-chairman of People Organized to Stop Rape of Imprisoned Persons, trying to keep the organization alive until the founder—Russell Smith—can be located. Smith, himself a victim of inmate rape, established POSRIP in 1977 but disappeared a few years later. Some of us believe he is back in prison, back in danger. Efforts to locate him have been futile, but continue.

One case Wolf cites is *Woodhus v. Commonwealth of Virginia*. The case states, "While occasioned, isolated attacks by one prisoner on another may not constitute cruel and unusual punishment, confinement in a prison where violence and terror reign is actionable. A prisoner has a right, secured by the Eighth and Thirteenth Amendments, to be reasonably protected from constant threat of violence and sexual assaults by his fellow inmates and he need not wait until he is actually assaulted to obtain relief."

If enough work such as Wolf's can be done on the inside of correctional institutions as well as outside the system, perhaps barbarism behind bars can be reduced. But to really stop rape, society may need a major overhaul since the real perpetrators may be those men and women in high places who abuse the public

trust by exploiting those under them.

Society can no longer plead ignorance. Sexual terror in confinement is now out of the closet. To allow it to continue is to condone it, thus undermining our democratic principles.

Meanwhile the sentiment of Pearl Buck—Nobel Prize-winning author—will continue to haunt our Halls of Justice everywhere: "A civilization can best be judged by the way it treats its least fortunate citizens." ■

Sonoma AIDS Net

Face to Face Sonoma County AIDS Network (formerly River AIDS Support Group) is sponsoring an Open House on Aug. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. at our new center at 13550 Church St., in downtown Guerneville. Refreshments will be served and volunteers will be available to answer questions you may have about our organization and AIDS related issues. We urge you to visit us that Sunday! For information, phone (707) 869-2526. ■

Stanford Dance

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford University presents its annual summer bash. The Midsummer Night's Dream dance will be held on Saturday Aug. 10, at 8 p.m. in the Old Firehouse on Stanford's campus. Admission will be \$2.50 per person. Women and men are welcome! The dance is open to the community at large, so come with all of your friends and dance the night away.

This dance is a benefit for the Gay and Lesbian Youth Group on the Peninsula, and is open to all people regardless of age, race or sex. For more information call GLAS (415) 497-1488. ■



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- Robin Young: music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4. Blatant blues with a dash of reggae and jazz.
- Elliot Pilshaw with John Buccino: music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. Pilshaw's distinctive vocal styling combined with Buccino's musicianship.
- Feminism — Broadway Style: music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Beverly Carpenter sings about her personal journey and the feminist ideal of a nuclear-free world.
- Danny Williams and Karen Ripley: comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6-8 PM.
- Night Sweat: stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 16th & Mission Sts., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8-\$12. Robert Chesley's controversial and startling investigation of the value of life and love amidst fear of death. Reservations at 861-5079.
- A Name You Never Got: stage performance, Blake Street Hawkeyes Theatre, 2019 Blake St., Berkeley, 7:30 PM, \$7. The story of a woman who finds the daughter she gave up for adoption 18 years earlier. Reservations at 567-6632.
- Women's Comedy Night: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Suzy Berger hosts the best in Bay Area women's comedy.



Night Sweat plays at Theatre Rhino through Sept.

• Nightsweat: stage performance (see Friday for details).

SUNDAY 11

- Different Spokes: San Gregorio-Pescadero loop, meet at San Gregorio beach parking lot at 10 AM for a hilly, moderate pace, 45-mile bicycle ride.
- San Francisco FrontRunners: Sunset Boulevard run, one to five miles, begins at 10 AM at Lake Merced Parking lot at south end of Sunset Blvd., S.F.
- San Francisco Hiking Club: day hike through Bear Valley, Point Reyes, meet at 9:45 AM under the big Safeway Sign, Church & Market Sts., S.F., Moderate, 11 miles round trip, bring lunch and water.
- G-Forty Plus: picnic on Angel Island, bring lunch and something to share, boat leaves Pier 43½ at 10 AM exactly, \$6 round trip, return by 5 PM.
- The Times of Harvey Milk: film, Red Victorian Movie House, 1659 Haight St., S.F., 2:15, 7, 9:15 PM, \$2 matinee, \$3 evening.
- Crossing Borders: stage performance (see Saturday for details).
- Special Fun: dancing, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM. Live music on El Rio's patio with a World Beat band.
- Guys and Dolls: music, 4 PM, \$5 (see Saturday for details).
- Achyutan and The Front Line: music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5-8 PM.
- Conversation with Samuel Steward: facts and fiction, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 8 PM. The English professor, tattooist, pornographer and friend of the famous/infamous entertains with stories of his lives.



Join Suzy Berger for Women's Comedy Night Friday at the Rose

WEEK



Sept. 8

(Photo: Mark I. Chester)

- Night Sweat: stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Circle of the Serpent: stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Affirmation: Lesbian and Gay Mormons, meets at 7 PM in San Francisco. Call 641-0791 for more information.
- Different Spokes: Decide and Ride Golden Gate Park, meet at 10 AM at McLaren Lodge.
- Gay Volleyball: pick-up games, Potrero Hill Jr. High School, 19th and Deharo, S.F., 11 AM to 2 PM.
- Immediate Family: stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Le Jazz Hot: cabaret, The Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 & 11 PM, \$1. Join MC's Consuelo del Rio and Tommi Rose every Sunday for a classy show featuring S.F.'s finest female impersonators.
- Drop-in VD Clinic: sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Free and confidential. Testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, etc., also counseling and referrals. Call 644-0425 for more information.

MONDAY 12

- The Times of Harvey Milk: film, 2:15, 7:15, 9:30 PM (see Sunday for details).
- Sapphron Obois, Patty Weinstein & Benny Rieveld: music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F. 7-11 PM.
- AIDS Writing Project: writing workshop for people with AIDS, 3 to 5 PM. Call 861-2385 for more information.
- Playwrighting for Women: taught by Terry Baum, call 641-7729 for more information.
- Gay Comedy Open Mike: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3. Performer sign-up, 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY 13

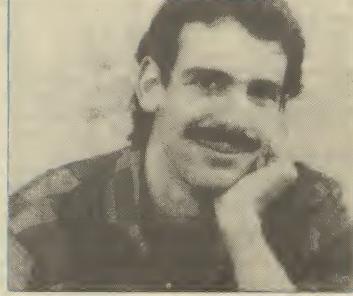
- Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: meeting, Lovgren Room, Grace Cathedral, 7:30 PM. Discuss efforts to form Gay Sierra Club group; slide show on Mono Lake presented. Information at 387-8453.
- Radical Women: meeting, 523-A Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM, dinner at 6:45 PM. Featured topic will be *Filipinas: Women in Struggle*. Call 864-1278 for more information.
- Lisa Pawlak: music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Meditation and Healing Circle: let go of the past and experience the peaceful core of who you are, 7:30 PM, free. Call 864-5483 for information.
- Gay Freedom Day Marching Band: practice, every Tuesday, Gresham Hall, Grace Cathedral, S.F., 7:15 PM. Interested? Call the Bandfone, 621-5619.
- Playwriting Workshop: 7:30 PM. Conducted by George Birmisa. Call 431-6254 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 14

- Two-Stepping at Rawhide: dancing, Great Outdoors City Bitties meet for lessons 7:30-9:30 PM. Call 821-0724 for information.

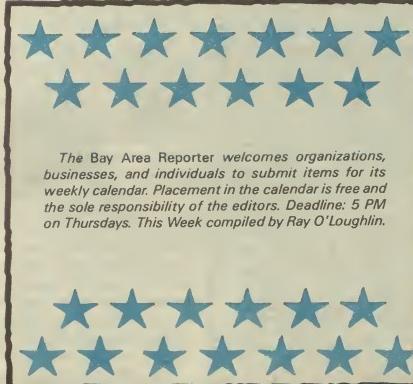
THURSDAY 15

- The San Francisco Baumicle: satire, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Terry Baum is joined by Carolyn Myers in an improvisational review of the daily news from the *Chronicle*.
- Sexuality, Freedom and Love in the Gay & Lesbian Experience: workshop, 7:30-11 PM, \$20, call 652-2180 for reservation. A group exploration with deep-trance channel Richard Lavin.
- San Francisco FrontRunners: one to five mile fun run begins at 6 PM, McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park.
- I Wish I Had Never Met You And I Was Meeting You Now: stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Night Sweat: stage performance (see Friday for details).



Elliot Pilshaw sings with John Buccino Friday at the Rose

- Beginners Square Dance: class, YWCA, 620 Sutter St., S.F., 7:15 PM, call 864-6134 for more information.
- Ten Percent Revue: music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$8. Tom Wilson Weinberg's smash hit musical comedy.
- Circle of the Serpent: stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Bonnie Hayes: music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.
- Writing Workshop: for men 60 and older, Live Oak School, 18th & Diamond Sts., S.F., 7 PM. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 431-6254 for details.
- Yoga and Meditation Class: for people with AIDS and their lovers, 7 to 9 PM. Call 921-4471 for more information.



The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays. This Week compiled by Ray O'Loughlin.

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—Gerald Nachman, SF Chronicle

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC

Night at the Chorus

In Which Hippler Calls on the Gay Men's Chorus In Search of Headlines and Finds True Love

by Mike Hippler

Journalists will do anything for a story. Some have themselves arrested so they can write about prison conditions. Others accompany combat soldiers behind enemy lines. Some join dangerous mountain climbing expeditions, while still others infiltrate organized-crime rings. But I, in my search for the bigger and better headline, topped them all recently when I spent a night singing with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

This was no mean feat, let me assure you. The Chorus is considered one of the Gay community's most respected (certainly most renowned) artistic organizations, and to consider joining its ranks, even if only for a night, is to dream the impossible (or perhaps the improbable) dream for one such as I.

Once, perhaps, I was worthy of such a dream. I am an alumnus of the Atlanta Boy's Choir, the North Springs High School Spartan Chorus, and the Duke University Chorale, after all, and I have toured Mexico, Europe, and the Greater Atlanta Metropolitan Area on the strength of my voice. But the years have not been kind to me, and nowadays, when I sing in the shower—the only place I am allowed to sing—neighbors often mistake my voice for that of Alfalfa on old *Our Gang* re-runs. They pound on the walls and demand that I turn down the volume of the TV.

Nevertheless, to sing with the Chorus I was determined, so on a Monday night in July, after twisting a few arms and greasing a few palms, I showed up at the Veteran's Building at Van Ness and McAllister, the Chorus' new home (located, appropriately enough, right next door to the Opera House).

Wandering the halls in search of Room 206, I ran into Paul Hardman, former editor of the *Voice*, of all people, who explained that until recently, the Chorus practiced at the Pride Center on Hayes Street, but when the Pride Center went under the Sisters of the Holy Family, a "subsidiary" of the Catholic church and no relation to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, took back control of the building they formerly occupied. As there is no love lost between the Gay Chorus and the church, due to squabbles over a cancelled concert at St. Mary's and a resulting lawsuit several years ago—and for other reasons as well—the Chorus decided to search for a new home.

This home was found for them by Hardman himself, who arranged the use of the Veteran's Building (supposedly reserved for the use of veterans only) by appointing the group the official chorus of the Alexander Hamilton Veteran's Association, the gay support group for American

Legion Post #448. Officially, therefore, I was singing not with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus but with the Alexander Hamilton etc. Chorus, which just happens to be one and the same. And I didn't even know Mr. Hamilton was Gay.

Arriving at Room 206 at last and remembering a cardinal rule of choir directors everywhere—No Gum!—I quickly swallowed my juicyfruit and picked up

a man to waste time. With no warm-up exercises at all, he plunged the group right into a first sight-reading of Gounod's *Deuxieme Messe*. (That's Mass #2 for the Philistines among you.) Sitting on the edge of my chair, back straight, shoulders up, I did about as well as could be expected, given the 12 years that had elapsed since my last attempt at sight-reading. Luckily, I had an appointed guardian

'Optimistically, I had seated myself in the Second Tenor section, and I was amazed to find I had lost little of my upper register after all these years.'

copies of the music we were rehearsing. The Chorus, I was told, was preparing for one of its four yearly concerts, this one an all-classical concert to be given Sept. 22 at Davies Hall with the Seattle Men's Chorus and a 55-piece orchestra. (The other concerts are held in the spring, during Gay Pride Week, and at Christmas.) The concert will be directed by Vance George, the director of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, who agreed to lead the temporarily-leaderless group for a very small stipend—and for love of the thing, I suppose.

Mr. George, it appeared, is not

angel, Perry George, a former columnist with the *Voice* (these *Voice* people do get around), at my side to keep me on the straight and narrow—if such words have any meaning when applied to Mr. George.

Optimistically, I had seated myself in the Second Tenor section, and I was amazed to find I had lost little of my upper register after all these years. Was it the nights in drag screaming in falsetto that kept my voice limber? Or was it the nights in bed, stretching my vocal cords whenever I had the chance? Whichever, I was delighted. Jokes about



Interloper Mike Hippler (r.) concentrates on his singing
(Photo: S. Eastman)

tenors abound, but I take great pride in my upper range. When I was a kid, I wanted to be a First Soprano forever. (Nature intervened, of course, and it was just as well. At least now I am no longer mistaken for a woman on the phone.)

After the Gounod—a piece of cake, incidentally—the director led us in breathing and modulating exercises. I concentrated and gave my all. And in my effort to do the best I could, to gain control over my voice, I remembered the reason I was attracted to singing in the first place. It wasn't just the music, the beautiful sounds I could make (or try to make), it was the discipline, the struggle to create order out of chaos, to join with others to Make Art.

Just how difficult that struggle could be I realized when we began working on a Richard Strauss piece, "Die Tageszeiten." Supposedly, the piece has never been recorded and seldom performed, and no wonder. It is fiendishly difficult, and I felt like an absolute moron, an imbecile, as I floundered hopelessly amidst a sea of dissonant chromatic harmonies. I was not the only frustrated person in the room, thank God, and it did not take the director long to notice. After spending 20 to 30 minutes working on what would be a mere ten seconds of phenomenally difficult but exquisitely beautiful music, he sighed and said, "Art is expensive, isn't it? Don't worry. Nobody will notice if we make a mistake. We'll give them a refund if they object."

Despite the hard work, the Chorus does have a good time. There is plenty of room for humor of a distinctly Gay bent. When Mr. George referred to the tops and bottoms within each section, he got the predictable response. Later, when Richard Ray, the general manager, modeled a T-shirt for sale, one wag cried out, "And how much did you pay for the chest, hon?" There was so much carrying on, in fact, that at times I found myself getting impatient. "C'mon, let's get serious, guys," I wanted to say, but the "guys" hardly needed my admonitions. After all, they've done well enough without me for seven years. I suppose they'll struggle through another seven.

During the break, Perry George told me a little about the history of the group. The result of a luncheon brainstorming session, the Chorus was founded in October 1978 by John Simms, Jim Gilman, and Dale Greenberg. These three men placed an ad in the paper for interested singers and were astonished when 80 people showed up the first day. After the first concert, Simms, the leader of the group (and the leader of the Gay band as well), called in Dick Kramer, who transformed the Chorus into the most celebrated Gay singing group in the country, the harbinger of every other Gay chorus in the nation.

Following an extremely popular but financially disastrous national tour in 1981, Kramer left the group in 1982. A series of directors has led the Chorus since then, only one of whom, Ernie Venegas, stayed with the group for any length of time. Even now, the Board of Directors is looking for a permanent director and, with him, a clear sense of direction, which the Chorus has lacked since Kramer left.

Following this history lesson, Richard Ray, the General Manager, explained the intricacies of Chorus structure. Members join by audition, and auditions are held four times a year following each of the year's performances. At the audition, prospective members sing scales, match pitches, and sight-read. About 70% are accepted. Those who are not are invited to join the staff, the non-singing members of the Chorus who participate in dozens of ways. There is also a 13-member Board of Directors, most of whom are also singing members of the Chorus.

At present there are 117 singing members (up from the 70 who sang at the Gay Pride Week concert) and 11 non-singing members. Almost all singing members have some prior experience in a choral group, even though they may not have sung since high school. Some have sung professionally. No one gets paid to sing for the Gay Men's Chorus, however. Quite the opposite—dues are \$8 a month plus a \$10 refundable music deposit, and Chorus members must provide their own uniforms (although the Chorus

(Continued on page 30)



The S.F. Gay Men's Chorus at rehearsal

(Photo: S. Eastman)

EVEN IN BABYLON



Too Much Is Not Enough

It was barely *apres-brunch*. The fog, tickling my skin, had not yet lifted from the top of Twin Peaks, and the neighborhood was quiet as people dulled themselves behind the Pink section and lazy Sunday routine. But when I arrived at Tom Souza's home, he was just opening a bottle of champagne.

"I always have champagne," he assured me when I protested the special treatment. And should he not? When you're the Leland Hotel poster boy it behooves you to lead a life that suits your image.

The Leland Hotel ads have become famous throughout Gay San Francisco. *Bay Area Reporter* readers used to turn first to Mr. Marcus, "Karnnal Knowledge," or the letters column. But for the past months, it's been each week's new photograph of model Souza in the Leland ad that demanded to be seen first. Souza, who masterminded the ad campaign as well as starred in it, is pleased with the ads' success — he was after name recognition for the hotel and he got it. One popular entertainer at the Valencia Rose elicits cheers from his audience by asking, "And what about the Leland Hotel?" I thought it was time to get some name recognition for the model, who has become a symbol of Gay San Francisco, a symbol of a life self-created — the picture, to many, of another suggestively redolent world. Though a mere mortal by comparison with Souza's fantasy, I was eager to step into his world, to ask wonderingly the question I knew millions longed to ask: "Who are you?"

I went. I met. I've come back to tell.

* * *

The door to Tom Souza's apartment is the threshold of another world; there may be no Gayer apartment in town. My outlook was being rapidly adjusted by the champagne ("the bubbles are full of oxygen, they're so good for you!"), and as I sank deeply into a voluptuous divan which enfolded me in a courtesan's plush embrace, I gazed beyond the resplendent delirium of Souza's decor and recalled Rita Mae Brown's dictum on the label Gay. "I prefer the word enchanted," she said, and that descriptive exchange fits Souza's home. It's not a place you can get to by a boat or a train or the #37 Corbett. It's far, far away, behind the moon, beyond the rain, somewhere over Twin Peaks — an enchanted tower of glitz and romance, a Polk Street visionary's earthly incorporation of the Planet Mary!

The foursquare layout, aluminum windows and gold-flecked ceiling of a typical California Modern apartment have been thoroughly transformed by Souza's wondrous hand. Crystal decanters on obsidian tables, mirrors and chrome, gleaming air-brush artwork and numerous neon decorations twinkle and shine warmly through a tropical forest of trees and plants. Some of them are real, most are not; Souza has created huge floral arrangements of dried greenery and silk flowers that engulf the room with their four-foot circumference and bold orchid colors. The room has a hedonistic rush of palm fronds and peacock feathers, jungle bloom and neon heat that seduces a visitor into forgetting the world outside. There I was, balding in Paradise.

But Souza's personal warmth and the direct and languorous gaze of his lagoon-blue eyes brought me wholly into this lush life, and he told me who the Leland Hotel poster boy *really* is.

Souza is of Greek, Portuguese, and Swedish descent, and although a native San Franciscan whose father is a fisherman in Half Moon Bay, he was raised by his step-father in Las Vegas.

"I'm a Pisces with Scorpio rising," he said, "and a Capricorn moon. I'm a dreamer, a stinger, and I love money. That's the schematics on that."

The schematics become complicated where Souza's image is concerned. There's more than a little Ann-Margaret in his photographs, and I wasn't surprised to find a shrine to her in his bathroom. The walls are covered with photos of Ann-Margaret alone, photos of Ann-Margaret with Souza, and photos of Souza duplicating Ann-Margaret's poses.

"Ann-Margaret has influenced my life quite a bit," he readily admitted, "by being the epitome of glamour, femininity, gentility, strength, and dynamic masculinity. It's a perfect balance. She's always rounded out my life."

"My mother looked almost exactly like Ann-Margaret, and wore microminis and took me to all Ann-Margaret's movies when I was young."

Souza grew up in the '60s, "the whole 'Valley of the Dolls' scene" is what he calls the Las Vegas years that must have been turbulent for the adolescent boy. "You'd love a woman who reminded you of your mother."

He's seen all of Ann-Margaret's shows in Las Vegas and around the country since he was 18. Travelling, in fact, is an important part of his life, another of the many traits he shares with Ann-Margaret.

"I travel a lot. Most of my time and energies go to travel," he told me. "It keeps me balanced. I like



Tom Souza

hot heat and saltwater and an occasional delicious man.

"I just have to enjoy life. Life's a privilege. I'm 31 now, and I want each year to be the best it can be. You just don't know from day to day, with troubled times and viruses floating around. So you have to be here in the here

and now."

Souza plugged us directly into the here and now by playing a tape of his favorite singers for me. Ann-Margaret came first, of course, with the "punk laser" opening from her recent show. She was followed by other Souza

(Continued on page 30)

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STAGE

Rock 'n' Roll Heaven

by Peter Keane

Live theater and rock music make strange bedfellows. More often than not, the two seem wedded in a shotgun marriage. The commercial potential of rock is seen as a way of drawing in people who don't normally go to see a stage performance. There's nothing wrong with that, theoretically. It's just that—with the exceptions of *Hair* and perhaps *Godspell*—the practice rarely works.

Air Guitar, a production of the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre currently on stage in an extended run at San Francisco State's Little Theatre, is a notable exception. It is an almost perfect example of how to use rock music to heighten and embellish the dramatic action of a play. Of course, the fact that the play is *about* the rock and roll lifestyle helps.

Albert Jackson is a frustrated, coke-snorting accountant with a successful-lawyer wife and a grown son. Albert's never given up his dream of being a rock musician, and one night, while working late, he is visited by the spirits of MTV, who promise to grant him his wish. The spirits (fairies?) whisk him off to Mother's Oasis, a nightclub-cum-den of iniquity. Armed with a tennis racquet-guitar imbued with special powers, Albert (now christened "Wah-Wah") knocks the crowd off its feet and in no time is at the top of the charts, enjoying a dizzying flush of success while his life crumbles around him. Sooner than you can say "has been," things get out of control. Albert's wife finds somebody who really appreciates her, and his son starts to ignite as a rock musician in his own right. Wah-Wah's completely alone, so when The Fall occurs, it's that much more tragic.

I've given away the plot, but don't let that stop you from seeing the play. It's the excitement



The Fairies of Air Guitar

generated by the music, the cast, and the dancers that gives this production its real power. The musicians are integrated right into the action, so they don't seem gratuitous afterthoughts, and the sound level is just right. The performers are all in good voice, and they bring a real zest to what they do. Especially good are Laurie Cannon as Wah-Wah's wife Alice, and Tom Vincent as his son Jeff.

The set is a handsomely conceived neo-expressionist new wave (as opposed to punk) design. The whole production

seems influenced by MTV—the fast pacing, the wild outfits—which is ironic, because MTV gets a thorough lambasting. It's a cleaned-up, suburban *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The music, by Units David and Jabari Allen, is good, if a bit generic. But it's perfectly suited to the theme, and moves the story along at a brisk clip.

Air Guitar is a pleasant surprise. It works. ■

Air Guitar
Little Theatre, S.F. State
Through Aug. 25; 474-6842

Nothing's Sacred

by Stephen Drewes

Every now and then the Muses seem to find it necessary to remind us theatergoers that nothing is sacred, that even works of real genius can be transformed to mere mush at the hands of incompetent or insensitive interpreters. The latest case in point is the songs of Cole Porter, arguably the greatest popular songwriter of his day, as presented in *Some Like It Cole*, which recently opened at 430 Mason Street. Not even Mozart could survive a production like this unscathed, and old king Cole must be spinning in his grave like a top.

My peers and I grew up with Porter's songs. He was, of course, of our parents' generation, but his songs stood in relationship to the songs of the late '50s much as the popular music of the '60s stands in relationship to the stuff currently being written. We knew his songs as well as the youth of 1985 knows the Beatles, and Ella Fitzgerald's classic "Cole Porter Songbook" has been a staple of every '60s kid's record collection.

Some Like It Cole manages to accomplish the seemingly impossible: it vulgarizes a writer who has long been recognized as the absolute epitome of Deco elegance and wit. Alexis Carrington sings Rameau! The songs are performed by three gals who are introduced as the Woolley sisters. Nothing much is developed out of this, but at least the surname apt. They are a fairly predictable bunch. Hattie

(K.K. Price) is big, brassy, and ballsy. Eadie (Carol Dilley) has the dimples that ate Brooklyn and suffers from Terminal Cute, and Katie (Stephanie Rhoads) is the pretty dumb blonde who occasionally sings a song written by the wrong composer. Hilarious. So much for plot.

Dilley and Rhoads are by no means bad performers, and on the rare occasion when they are allowed to sing a song roughly as the composer might have intended it, they do quite well. But they have been ruthlessly undermined by their music director and costumer.

The musical arrangements, by Curtis Blaine, are acceptable, if uninspired. The real problem is in the treatment of the lyrics. Porter was an outrageous lyricist, who bent rhymes with charming abandon ("romance a lot" and "Lancelot," for instance) and presented them with an easy grace that made these improbable words sound like the purest Shelley. In this show, however, every unlikely lyric combination is pounded upon with ferocious glee, as if the audience were slightly deaf children who might not get the joke. Sometimes a song seems to have been completely misunderstood. The delicious satire of "Friendship," from *DuBarry Was a Lady*, is out the window. (I wonder if these performers actually *read* the words before committing them to memory . . .)

The costumes are by Criscione, which is apparently another sister outfit. They are

lovingly described in the program as "soft, fluid, feminine, classical, seasonless." Ah, if we could only see ourselves as others see us! What they are is common. There are lots of them. And the real hero of the evening is the dresser. The singers whisk in and out of quick changes with astonishing speed, but unfortunately the costumes all look the same. There is a vast quantity of sequins, boas, rhinestones, and feathers, and an array of what used to be called "cocktail hats" which looked like dead, oil-slick purple birds. And here I thought our national supply of theatrical gilt had been decimated by La Cage aux Folles. Silly me!

We are told *Some Like It Cole* has been around for six seasons and has played to "rave reviews" in 100 major cities from Edinburgh to Chicago. I am at a loss to tell you why. This group's next project will be "The Great Merman," a salute to Ethel Merman, who introduced many of Porter's most famous tunes. This is the first time I've felt any real sympathy for La Merman, never my favorite performer. If they can do this to Cole, how will poor Ethel fare?

Nothing much has changed at 430 Mason, by the way. Wine, at three bucks a pop, is still being served in plastic glasses. You'd be better advised to do your drinking at home, like ladies and germs, and listen to Ella. ■

Some Like It Cole
430 Mason St.; 981-3535

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FROM FIFTH POSITION

Broadway Magic

KEITH WHITE

Lee Theodore's American Dancemachine is the major repository of dance numbers from 20th century American musical theater. Established in New York, the company reconstructs choreography from shows that have closed, while its associated training center coaches dancers in various styles of show dancing and, presumably, repertory as well. For the next six weeks at Marin's Memorial Theatre, the American Dancemachine's 20-member company will present a concert of 17 selections from its large repertoire.

The dance numbers in this show are given a variety format, primarily for their pure entertainment value. Dances are not arranged chronologically, and though the show has a narration, it doesn't lecture the audience; the narrator introduces more than she informs. Costume changes and the small stage in the theater were undoubtedly crucial factors in programming also. For the opening dozen or so performances, the narration is given by Cy Charisse. Possibly more glamorous than ever — with a walk that would stop five o'clock traffic — Charisse's moments of confusion on opening night were covered with great charm, but the narration is central to the concert's success.

Show choreography in this format is bound to be less incisive than in its original context, no matter how well the narrator lays it out. Ah, but the imagination

that goes into production numbers! In some of these dances an entire period and place are evoked before 12 bars of music have passed. Ron Field's "The Telephone Dance" from Cabaret, which includes a duet for a kisslocked couple whose lips never separate through the entire scene, was one dance I remember from its original staging. Well-performed and still very amusing, the stage barely contains it.

Three Agnes DeMille dances gave a more representative view of her work than any other single choreographer. "June Is Busting Out All Over" (Carousel) never fails, and Tinka Gutnick looked lovely in the "Come To Me, Bend To Me" solo from Brigadoon, nicely sung by Kelby Kirk. But the "Funeral Dance" from Brigadoon was unexpectedly boring, and a short, bumbling solo, "Mamie Is Mimi" from Gentlemen Prefer Blondes — also danced by Gutnick — was the inexplicable opening of the show.

One of the evening's great surprises is the amount of singing in it — underscoring the traditional demands that gypsies have to meet; only multitalented — and very talented — people need apply. And some of these dancers sing very well indeed. Aja Major's bright, strident singing matches her dancing; in "Won't You Charleston With Me," from The Boyfriend, she and Brian Dugay represent perfect casting. She was terrific in another number of the same vintage,



The American Dancemachine

"You Can Dance With Any Girl At All" from No, No, Nanette, with Kelby Kirk. Luba Gregus has one of those vivid, brassy personalities that is indispensable to musical comedy. Her smoky, sultry voice was the highlight of the "Charlie's Place" production number from Over Here. In "Little Old New York" (Tenderloin, 1960), she shined again, and I would like to have heard and seen even more of her.

Some of the numbers are strictly novelties. A duet by Katherine Dunham was admirable only for its representative gesture, though Tinka Gutnick and Joe Deer did their best to grind and shudder. A moment of break dancing by Ali Theodore was gratuitously tacked onto "The Aggie Song" as an introduction, but it was very brief. The "White Dance" from Destry Rides Again, which Charisse described as "not real-

ly a dance but a theatrical staging . . ." casts three cowboys in black with bull whips, rodeo style, and for those in the audience whose fantasies are so inclined, one of the guys really has The Look. Of several other male ensembles, the "Clog Dance" from Walking Happy is the most successful. Originally, it was placed last on the program, but on opening night was switched with "The Aggie Song" from The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, which closed the show. The switch is objectionable only inasmuch as the men appear barechested in the Whorehouse number, which led me to exit the theater with torsos more in mind than the dancing.

Not everything is available to the Dancemachine. There are no Michael Bennett dances (though he is a former student of Theodore's). Bob Fosse wouldn't release any of his dances to the

company, though his "Rich Man's Frug" from Sweet Charity — by now very dated — has been done by the Metropolitan Opera Ballet ensemble. I did wish for some more cool and slow jazz dancing on the program (only Carol Haney's "Satin Doll" from Television fills that bill) and perhaps something slick and modern and isolated (the "Tick Tock" solo from Company, perhaps?).

A real musical theater buff could make a wish list a mile long, but after all, the show has to end sometime, and there is a lot to take in as it is. That is the real message of the Dancemachine: "Look at all the entertainment that might have been lost if we hadn't dug it up and brought it back to life!" Lee Theodore has given us a real treat with this show, and her marvelous company is capable of bringing us all back to life. ■

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Chorus Lines

GEORGE HEYMONT

ACTIVE GREEKS

Last month, the Opera Theatre of St. Louis mounted a new production of Mozart's Idomeneo, which was based on a fascinating conceit. "The action is set in modern Crete where, every year, a fishing village (led by its priest) re-enacts the legend of a former king amidst the ruins of the ancient Temple of Neptune," explained director Robert Carsen. "Through this ritual passion play, the fishing community expresses its deep-rooted and primitive fear of the sea while enriching itself through the more modern Christian ideal of the trial of faith by suffering and sacrifice."

Although the backstage crew chose to refer to Mozart's opera seria as "Eat-A-Tomato," I derived much satisfaction from this intensely theatrical production. Set on a rotating turntable and sung in Andrew Porter's facile English translation, Carsen's staging of Idomeneo had a great deal going for it. With one notable exception (an unnecessarily "cute" touch at the end of the evening in which a lost child found his father after the close of the ritual) Carsen's direction proved deeply moving and gave Idomeneo more vigor than it usually achieves onstage. The play-within-a-play structure brought an added level of theatricality to the proceedings. The exceptional dramatic skills of OTSL's young cast were matched by some very fine singing. ■

PASTA II

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One finds very few operas which do not have some form of choral music written into their scores. And opera, like the classic Greek theater, frequently turns to the chorus for dramatic support. Why? Because a chorus can serve a variety of functions. Occasionally, choristers tackle the somber chore of judging morality. As a collective voice, the chorus may also comment on the strange behavior of the evening's principal characters. Or artists.

When necessary, an operatic chorus can always be depended upon to create havoc in the royal court or pandemonium in the streets. Indeed, it would seem almost impossible to stage such works as Peter Grimes, La Boheme, La Traviata, and Carmen without a large and well-trained chorus. I say "almost" because I once saw a bizarre production of Aida mounted on an op-art set for The Boys in the Band. With a cast of seven and a fierce amount of imagination (which, I assure you, remained mostly within Marguerite Ruffino's singularly demented mind) this Aida was produced with a five-piece orchestra and no chorus at all.

Using Southwest Airlines' familiar KISS management formula ("Keep It Simple, Stupid") there was no triumphal scene at all. As I recall, when the unfortunate Aida (sung by the rather voluminous Madame Ruffino) was thrown to the floor, she could not get back up on her feet. Amneris was dressed in harem pantaloons while the messenger looked like a stagestruck truck driver from Philadelphia. The

Nile Scene took place with Amonasro (clad in a leopard-skin bathrobe) hiding behind a plastic potted palm in Michael's bedroom.

It was a performance I will never forget.

BOY, DID HE LOVE LUCY!

As part of its spring season for chamber operas, the Dallas Opera mounted an extremely satisfying production of The Rape of Lucretia. Directed by Julian Hope and conducted by Nicola Rescigno, the evening featured Ulisse Sancicchi's minimal, but effective sets (which were on loan from the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Center for American Artists). Despite strong and impressive performances from Louis Otey as Tarquinius and Deborah Milsom as Lucretia, my primary reason for attending this production was a chance to hear a soprano who has been making waves.

Susan Dunn, who sang the part of the Female Chorus in Britten's The Rape of Lucretia, is well on her way to a major career. A prize winner in the Dallas Opera's Dealey Awards competition, the Philadelphia Opera's Pavarotti competition as well as a recipient of the prestigious Richard Tucker Award, there is little doubt this woman's voice bears major promise. Dunn has already been signed to appear as Leonora in Verdi's La Forza Del Destino with the Lyric Opera of Chicago during its 1987-88 season. Keep your eyes and ears on Dunn. Hers is quite a formidable talent. ■

The Coca-Cola Kid

No Classic

The Coca-Cola Kid is that rare film that lets us view Australia through American eyes—and it took an expatriate Yugoslavian who lives in Paris to make it.

The film by Dusan Makavejev, whose films tend toward the bizarre, begins in a gently satirical vein, much like Bill Forsyth's Local Hero. "Brilliant troubleshooter" Eric Roberts is sent from Atlanta to beef up Coke sales Down Under. "The earth will not be truly free," he preaches, "until Coca-Cola is available everywhere."

Greta Scacchi, showing as much flair for comedy as she did for drama in Heat and Dust, is the secretary not so much assigned as gravitated toward Roberts. He turns her on, even though she doesn't see him as we do, in bikini underwear and practicing tai chi in a bathing suit. She has a violent ex-husband who drops by.

Kid, with its scattershot approach is likely to please no one. If Coke weren't already being discussed more than Dynasty this summer, this movie wouldn't get it mentioned at cocktail parties.

★ ★ ★

Not all of Dusan Makavejev's observations about Australia made it to the screen in The Coca-Cola Kid. For instance:

"Australians don't have much problem with homosexuality or heterosexuality. I think there's a lot of bisexuality in Australia."

The scene at the drag party was inspired at least in part by the director's discovery of a club where "every month, these bankers and all go with their wives, all dressed as women, and dance. You can't tell who's what . . . These aren't homosexual transvestites, but heterosexual transvestites." There's little doubt that the drag queens in the movie, however, are Gay.

There must have been a Gay presence on the set crew. A newsstand, built for the movie,



King of the Gypsies Meets Lady Clairol—The Coca-Cola Kid is Eric Roberts' first screen comedy. Could he be having more fun because he bleached his hair blond for the part?

frequently for a fight. Their young daughter says she's called "DMZ" because "When they throw things at each other, I'm off limits."

Makavejev never sticks with one style all the way through a film, so this one goes off the deep end at a party where Scacchi takes pictures of drag queens embracing Roberts. Her ex-busts things up saying, "You start with Coca-Cola, you end up with perverts and junkies."

The sales problem focuses on Bill Kerr, who has a minor region all to himself with the soft drinks he has made for 60 years. He's also Greta's father, which is given away early yet still used as a climactic revelation.

After the pleasant comedy of manners it starts out to be, the latter portion of The Coca-Cola

appears in two scenes. In the first, a quick glimpse reveals a scandal sheet with a lurid headline about Star 80 and Eric Roberts' co-star in that film, Mariel Hemingway. In the second and longer scene, Australia's Gay newspaper Campaign is prominently displayed at the top of the rack.

Frank Moorhouse, the Australian writer who created The Coca-Cola Kid in two books of short stories, "is heterosexual," according to Makavejev, "but in the late '60s he went through a period of experimentation. He wrote an article about it . . . He lived with a man, had a sexual relationship with him. He said he didn't like it, but he continued to stay with him—there's something strange there."

(Lumiere) S. Warren

Weird Science

After the "serious" teenage comedies, Sixteen Candles and The Breakfast Club, writer-director John Hughes joins the ranks of the rankest panders with Weird Science, which combines the "Twilight" and erogenous zones.

With Hughes' trademarked anti-parental patter, this is a total teenage fantasy. Two high school nerds create the perfect woman on a home computer. She begins by acting like a sex object—although sex never quite happens—but her real mission is to—in her unfortunately chosen words—"straighten them out." She corrects their personality problems, improves their social standing, and helps them score with the real girls of their dreams, all in the course of one wild weekend. Sounds like est.

Anthony Michael Hall, who once played a young Steve Allen, is more like

a young Woody Allen with a wider range. He is 16-year-old Gary, whose prior love life was highlighted by a girl who kneed him in the nuts and called him a faggot.

Ian Mitchell-Smith, who was the best thing about a turkey called The Wild Life, spends his time here completely in Hall's shadow. He plays Wyatt, 15 and bullied by an older brother who acts like a retarded marine.

Kelly (The Woman in Red)

LeBrock is again more than a model but less than an actress as the fabricated Lisa, who "could have a good time at an insurance seminar." She predicts, "Gary and Wyatt are going to cause everyone to redefine their terms," then, with a lot of magic and special effects and very little character development, she makes it come true.

(Royal, Serramonte) S. Warren



North by Midwest — Lost in Middle America, Big Bird has the Cary Grant role in the restaging of a famous scene, in the feathered Muppet's first feature film, *Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird*.

Follow That Bird

Not Easy Being Yellow

They were determined that Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird wouldn't be just another Muppet movie, so they lowered their sights. Specifically, they lowered the age of their target audience to that of Sesame Street televiewers. Rather than use the inside, often camp humor that permeated the three Muppet features, which would appeal to the generation that has grown up with—outgrown—Sesame Street, they've followed the trend of this summer's movies and aimed right for the kids.

A group of fine-feathered do-gooders set up the plot by imposing their ideal of the nuclear family on Big Bird—"He's alone . . . We all know he can't be happy!" They take him from his chosen family on Sesame Street and send him to "Ocean View, Illinois" to live with "his own kind," the Dodo family—Daddy, Mommy, Donny, and Marie—who act a lot like the aliens in Explorers.

It doesn't take Big Bird long to run away—he's no Dodo—but it takes him a long time to get back to Sesame Street, what with a visit to a farm, a meal at a roadside restaurant where Sandra Bernhard waits tables and Paul Bartel tosses salads, and captivity in the Slezee

Brothers' carnival. Meanwhile, the old gang is having fun looking for him—how often do they get to go on location?

In the end, benevolent Miss Finch halfway acknowledges someone might be happy in a lifestyle different from hers—but I wouldn't push her too far on that point.

"Sesame Street is brought to today by the letters W and B," we're told as the Warner Bros. logo takes shape. Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird goes downhill from there, but the youngsters should like it.

(Coliseum, Serramonte, Empire) S. Warren



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BAY AREA REPORTER

SPORTS & FITNESS

COMM. SOFTBALL LEAGUE

RODGER SOTO

Empire Thrashes Two/ Overflow Comes Alive

With two weeks of regular season play left, Mark Gordon's Empire Sales continues to dominate the Community Softball League. This well-oiled machine has always been top rate in the league, but this year, after being around for three years and several years together in the city league, Empire's playing softball at its finest. After watching Empire run over both Nap's Investigators 14-5 and then rundown the Bunkhouse 16-4 with ease, it is now impossible to stop this team from taking its division championship.

If I were to mention excellent defensive plays and good solid hitting, I would have to mention just about every player on the team. One man does deserve special mention, who is Russ Zipkin, who hit three home runs over the Lang 2 fence, which is no easy feat. One of those homers cleared the street and landed in the park. For anyone who knows Lang 2, that is almost impossible. Mark Gordon, pitcher and manager for Empire, has become the

most improved pitcher in the league, and pitched two excellent games. In this league it is very important to have a pitcher who is also good defensively, and this is where Mark is shining.

The up and down Overflow/Slowrush team came alive and showed its competition who was boss. In the first game against the Bunkhouse, excellent pitching by Ed Pugh was the key to this 12-5 victory over the Bunkhouse. Ed also helped his own game by hitting a three-run homer in the second inning, which was one of the best hits of the day. Also, veteran David Behar got three RBI's and played some superb defense.

In the second game, it was a see-saw hitting battle with both Overflow and Nap's hitting the hell out of the ball. Steve Pissigai's men were finally victorious in the final inning, beating Nap's 18-16. In this game Mark Mazzaro led the hitting, going 4 for 4, with Jimmy Miller and John Walsh both going 3 for 4.

After last week's defeats, the Cinch came back fighting and outshone its sister bar, again with a 9 to zip win. This game was controlled by the fantastic pitching of veteran Chris Conley, who only gave up four hits and played excellent defense. Chris has always been one of the best pitchers in the league. In hitting, war horse Joel Tardiff led, going 4 for 4, with manager Bob Finey going 3 for 4. On the defensive side, besides Chris, was Darwin Zazour and Lance Phillips, who pulled off some beautiful double plays.

Sweet victory was Heinbaugh Legal with a defeat over the tough Rockin' Robins, which it had lost a heartbreaker to a few weeks ago. Again, the pitcher for Heinbaugh, Gary Hanscher, gave up

only seven hits, and backed by some excellent fielding by Chuck Solari at shortstop. The batting was led by Al Sarsi getting several hits and RBI's. Also in the hitting department was Rudi Delgadillo, Steve Williams, and Mike Howell. Rockin' Robins threatened to come back in the final inning by scoring its three runs, but Heinbaugh's men were able to hold them.

* * * *

Game Scores August 4th
Everett's 18 Beake Bros 17
Ramshead 7 Purple Hayes 0
Cinch 9 Rainbow 0
Legal 6 Robins 3
Overflow 12 Bunkhouse 5
Empire 14 Nap's 5
Overflow 18 Nap's 16
Empire 16 Bunkhouse 4

DIVISION STANDINGS

	W	L
Rockin' Robins	11	3
Heinbaugh Legal	9	3
Bunkhouse	7	6
Overflow/Slowrush	7	7
Ramshead	3	12
Purple Hayes Gang	0	14

Jack "Irene" McGowan Divn

	W	L
Empire Sales	12	2
Cinch	9	5
Everett's	9	5
Beake Bros. Electric	7	6
Nap's Investigators	4	9
Rainbow Cattle Co.	3	9

GAMES AUGUST 11TH AT JACKSON FIELD

Everett's v. Beake Bros, 10:30 a.m.

Robins v. Overflow noon

Cinch v. Empire noon

Bunkhouse v. Nap's 1:30 p.m.

Legal v. Rainbow 1:30 p.m.

Rainbow v. Nap's 3 p.m.

Legal v. Bunkhouse 3 p.m.

TOM VINDEED

G.S.L. UPDATE

Pendulum Upsets Festus; Semi-Finals Saturday

Just when it looked like everything was set for the Gay Softball League playoff schedule, the Pendulum put together an air-tight defense and timely hitting and base running to surprise Festus 3-2. By doing so, the Pendulum gained the top spot in the playoffs, while Dennis O'Neil's Rowdies finished second.

Credit for the Pirates' big win goes to those venerable veterans, Tom Sherk and Bob Vierock. Tommy Lee's base running in the bottom of the seventh inning confused the Rowdies' infield, and Vierock threw a nine hitter. Cliff Wilson of Festus gave up only five hits to the Pirates in a gallant effort.

In other final regular season play, the Producers snapped its three-game losing streak by edging Ginger's 9-8, and the Village thumped the Kokpit 15-4. Hamberger Mary's battled the Vagabond for the sixth playoff spot,

but was thwarted by losing a 15-14 heartbreaker.

Amelia's won its fourth game of the season by upsetting Trax, and Chaps closed out the season with a sixth victory by edging Cafe Sn. Marcos. The season wasn't quite long enough for the Pilser Inn; the team won its fifth in a row to finish above .500, over the Rawhide.

The results of Saturday's games placed the Village against the Kokpit and the Producers against the Vagabond in the next round of the playoffs.

Paced by Sam Migliaccio and Bob DeFilipo's pitching, the Islanders won two straight from Cha Cha's "Pits," 11-3 and 6-0 in quarter-final playoffs last weekend. John "Vanna" White, Joe Lucinski, and Skip "Kenny Rogers" Anderson produced a solid hitting attack.

The other quarter-final series was much closer. The Vagabond got even for a 19-4 drubbing at the hands of the Producers and won the best of three, two games to one.

There were lots of hits, runs, and errors in this series, although there wasn't much outstanding play, with the exception of Scott from the Vagabond, who gave his usual 110%.

Saturday at 10 a.m. at Moscone Field at Bay and Laguna, the Village will play Festus and the Pendulum will host the Vagabond. The winners of these two series will vie against each other Sunday at 10 a.m. at Balboa #1.

Whatever happens, it is sure to be an exciting championship weekend. Come out and root for your favorite team or player. Amelia's will be selling refreshments, so leave those six-packs at home.

S.F. TRACK & FIELD

North American Champs

The San Francisco Track & Field Club emerged from the WAVA/North American Championship Meet last Saturday, Aug. 3, as the best in North America in three different events.

The SF Track & Field Club took both the 4x110 and 4x400 relays, and Bernard Turner kept his winning streak alive in the 400 meters by capturing the gold in his age division.

Under a blistering sun at the Los Gatos Track, the SFT&F Club started off the day with a big win in the 4x110 relay. St. George's Track Club of Stockton was seeking revenge from a narrow defeat at the hands of the San Francisco Club two weeks ago in Berkeley, but it was not to be. Earl Bryant, plagued by a sore calf muscle, got the San Francisco squad off to a sluggish start, but newcomer Terry Taylor exploded past the St. George's team

on his leg of the race and handed off to third man Rick Thoman with a slight lead. Thoman turned on the speed and increased the lead over the competition before handing off to anchorman Bernard Turner, who ran a relaxed leg down the final straight, giving the team a first place, gold medal, North American championship.

Bryant returned in the 100 meters and shook off his nagging calf muscle to fly to a second place, silver medal finish in a time of 11.7. Larry Heller, another San Francisco Track & Field Club newcomer, made his season debut on the track in the 100 meters, finishing behind Bryant in fourth place at 12.7.

As the temperature on the track sizzled above 100 degrees, Bryant and Thoman stepped lightly in the 200 meters and blazed to a second and third

place, respectively, in their age divisions. Bryant posted a personal-best time of 24.4 in his race, while Thoman clocked a faster 23.8 in his third-place finish.

Turner had to come from behind in the 400 meters to win his age division. It was his third straight gold medal victory of the season, and he posted a season-best time of 53.0.

The SFT&F Club finished the day with a championship run in the 4x400 relay. Alan French got the San Francisco team off to a great start with an excellent run, handing off to Turner, who turned in another smooth race, followed by a good effort by Thomas and, in his debut in the 400, Larry Heller brought the team in to a first place victory.

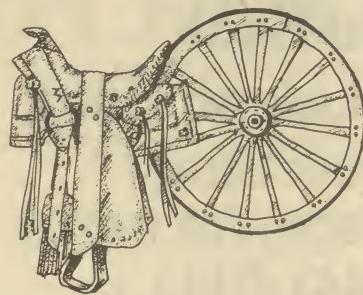
The meet netted the San Francisco Track & Field Club a total

(Continued on next page)

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G.T.F. TEAM TENNIS

LES BALMAIN

Roto Rooter Leads the Pack

The race for the playoffs in the regular season of Team Tennis is over. The top four playoff contenders were decided in the final Round No. 7 played July 27 and 28. The teams crossing the wire in order of finish were: 1st, Roto Rooter; 2nd, The White Swallow; 3rd, Ivy's; and 4th, Sutter's Mill.

At the beginning of the season, the White Swallow team took the early lead through Round 2, and were neck to neck with Roto Rooter at Round 3, but from Round 4 on to the finish, the Roto Rooter team has been a strong front runner. These two teams are the favorites in the playoffs.

The results of Round 7 matches were: Atlas Savings won over Pilsner Inn 41-33, the White Swallow downed Community Rentals 49-37, Roto Rooter edged Ivy's 40-37, and Sutter's Mill beat Nella/Schmidt Ins. 47-31. Sutter's Mill's big win gave the team a secure hold on 4th place, some 24 games ahead of Atlas Savings. ■

SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings and Personal Achievements
(The League Averages are unavailable)

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Week 8 of 15 - as of 7/28/85)		
1. Vagabond	22	10
2. Gone With The		
Pins	19	13
3. Play With It, Ltd.	18	14
4. The Crips	18	14
5. Alley Cats	16	16
6. Strange Interlude	15	17
7. Oh, Well!	15	17
8. Deboys Triangle	13	19
9. Cocktails	13	19
10. DMJ 2	11	21
WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 9 of 17 - as of 7/24/85)		
8. Mitzie's Men	17	19
9. Alley Oops!	11	25
10. Hunker Roos	8	28
THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 8 of 16 - as of 7/25/85)		
1. High Gear	28	8
2. Taco Tycoons	26	10
3. Play With It, Ltd.	25	11
4. Stud City	21½	14½
5. Very Cruzer	21½	14½
6. Pilsner Vultures	20	16
7. Lucille's Balls	18½	17½
8. Alley-Oops	18	14
9. Pink Terminators	18	18
10. Team #1	17	19
11. Fat-Al Kids	17	19
12. Brunswick Beauties	17	19
13. Kok Pit Punchers	16	20
14. Late Nite Rollers	13	23
15. White Swallow	12	20
16. Sticky Buns	8½	27½
17. Team #12	0	0
18. Team #18	0	0
MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 8 of 16 - as of 7/22/85)		
1. Play With It, Please	23	9
2. Belev Meanie	21	11
3. Foote Plumbing	20½	11½
4. Agency Rent-A-Car	20	12
5. Vagabond	19½	12½
6. What's My Lane?	19½	12½
7. Damaged Goods	18½	13½
8. Pin Fals	14	18
9. Bow-K	13	19
10. S.F. Int'l Cheese		
Import	13	19
11. Tina's Weenies	12	20
12. Jason's Brats	12	20
13. Kimo's Kuties	10	22
14. The Flintstones	8	24
TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 9 of 17 - as of 7/23/85)		
1. Whirlwinds	25	11
2. Gutter Girls	22½	13½
3. 5 Big Balls	22	14
4. Team #4	21	15
5. Deadwoods	18	18
6. "Lois Lanes"	18	18
7. The Marvelettes	17½	18½
<i>Compiled by Jerry R. De Young</i>		

(Continued from previous page)
of nine gold medals, two silver, and one bronze — its best performance in a year of outstanding achievements for this Gay track

'The meet netted the . . . club a total of nine gold medals, two silver, and one bronze.'

club running in a "Straight" world. Commented Turner after the meet: "A lot of people think

pishments." ■

R. Thoman

Gay Track Meet

The San Francisco Track & Field Club will host the 2nd Annual Track & Field Festival this Saturday, Aug. 10, starting at 10 a.m. at the McAteer High School track, at the corner of Portola and O'Shaughnessy Streets on Twin Peaks.

The first running event of the day, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., will be the 5,000 meters. Other running events include the 100, 200, and 400 meter dashes, the 800 and 1,500 meter middle distance races, and 110 (men) and 100 (women) meter hurdles, and three relay events.

Field events will include high jump, long jump, discus, shot put, and javelin. Both running and field events are open to men and women and will be contested in three separate age divisions: 18-29, 30-39, and 40-over. Awards will be presented to the top five contestants in each event, in each age group. Regular running shoes or $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch spikes are acceptable on the all-weather track surface.

The meet is a forerunner to next year's Gay Games II competition, which will begin exactly one year from the day of the track fest. Co-meet directors Eileen Flaherty and Ed Rubarchek, who will also be staging the Gay Games II track competition in 1986, explained that Saturday's meet will give participants thinking of competing in the Games a feel for what the competition may be like.

There is a \$5 entry fee to the meet to help cover expenses, and participants may sign up at the meet on Saturday. Gay Games founder Tom Waddell will act as the meet announcer. Volunteers are welcome to come out and help with the meet. For more information, call 821-7674 or 929-8564. ■



Ann-Margret at the AIDS Walkathon held recently at Los Angeles

AIDS Walkathon

More than twice as many as were expected, about 4,500 people, walked through the heart of Hollywood July 28 in an AIDS Walkathon. More than \$630,000 was raised from the event, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

The walk began at the Paramount Studios lot on Melrose Avenue, where a host of politi-

cians and celebrity types, including Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Ann-Margret, addressed the crowd. By the time the walkers started out on the 6.2 mile route, temperatures were in the mid 80s. First aid stations along the way reported "a whole lot of blisters and a few cases of heat prostration," according to the *Times*. ■

Run this up your flagpole!



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Babylon

(Continued from page 23)

role models: Eartha Kitt purring and scratching, Charo seducing, and a song from the movie "Barbarella," extolling the virtues of physical love.

"There's so many wonderful things to do in life," he said. "We should enjoy our dreams."

Souza's dream, obviously, was to live his dream, to be glamorous and loving, to travel continually ("I've been to Hawaii 17 times") and to enjoy life at least as much as Auntie Mame. That was the origin of his only apparent means of income, a modeling career.

"I was featured 43 times in the *Crusader* and *Focus* newspapers," he told me, revealing that he had arranged to have those photos made himself.

"It was for furtherment. I guess it was my own ad campaign."

Souza had already established himself as a local photo-celebrity when these papers folded, and it wasn't too long before he found his talents requested to create the Leland Hotel ad. "They wanted to be put on the map," he said simply, "and I did it!"

He announced though, that after 22 consecutive ads, there would be only a few more. There's been a management change at the Leland, and Souza feels the hotel is not quite up to his representations, although he's discreet on this subject. He shrugs off his cancellation, though.

"I've got other things to do. There are so many possibilities. I did a modeling session for a French Gay magazine, and for Lisa Kanemoto's new book."

So life whirls on dauntingly. He's just back from a vacation in Hawaii, having previously visited Paris, Bora-Bora, and Brazil. In Hawaii he met Susan Hayward's brain surgeon, who told him, "Vitamins are jewels for the body," which has put him on a mega-vitamin regime.

"I also met a fabulous Romanian, who will be making a TV pilot soon. He had the face of Englebert Humperdinck and the body of Tarzan. In fact, he's played Tarzan in Peru. He had these emerald green eyes and this body that would shame . . .

"I was so happy to be there with him for two days. But I set myself up for that, by being honest and going for what I wanted to go for. He was every fantasy! You're lying there in the hot sizzling sun, baking in the

sand, with Bain de Soleil for a Bridgette Bardot-Alain Delon effect, with gardenias and things all around you, and fruit juices and smoke and Fosters Lager and hot heat and this incredible creature next to you who likes vulnerability and you like strength and it's a perfect mesh."

There are times, however, when such fantasies, even though worked for and earned, can't be fulfilled. Then Souza spends quiet days exercising with his dog at Land's End, a place he loves, or strolling the foggy cliffs.

'I'm made of tupperware with a Steuben glass exterior.'

"I'm a nature boy. I love the fog and the stillness."

Souza's even content to stay at home. "I've had two different mates for 15 years. We see each other when necessary, maybe twice a week, and I cook a nice dinner. But I like my space, to live alone and pursue my freedom."

"But then I like my friends over, and I'll get a case or two of champagne, and we have much food, and they stay until they don't want to stay anymore and we've quenched our needs for another two months."

He took a moment to serve me a mid-day snack with more champagne—sorbet and champagne cookies. He's sincerely

concerned for his guests and friends, yet after quenching needs and fulfilling fantasies he has time to think of the world. Besides his use of vitamins and lavish care of his body (regular and long doses of the sun have given him a most striking look, as have frequent changes of hair color), he is concerned for the Gay community's health. He urges us to be knowledgeable about our immune systems. "A lot of things are brought on by fear and stress, or by not knowing."

He also counsels mercy for Rock Hudson. "He's been giving through his acting for decades. It's unfair of us to drain him so we can go on. He needs to be held now. He's like a lobster in a pot; we pull down our brothers who are clawing to get up."

But lest we think he's too soft, Souza qualifies his views. "I like innocence and beauty. I'm very sensitive. But I'm also a baracuda. I'm made of Tupperware with a Steuben glass exterior."

It's a hardy combination, and Souza's "furtherment" is unlikely to slow down, regardless of the forthcoming termination of the Leland Hotel ads. For in every part of Tom Souza's life—in the fantasy made real of his career and lifestyle, in his inventive clothing designs, far-flung travels and wide-spread friendships, his indulgent diet and effulgent daytime make-up—we can see the heady embodiment of a man with a large appetite for life.

"There's never enough," he said, "and too much is not enough." ■

J. F. Karr



Tom Souza



Vance George, director of the S.F. Symphony Chorus, gets the Gay Men's Chorus ready for its Sept. 22 concert at Davies Hall
(Photo: S. Eastman)

Chorus

(Continued from page 22)

does have a policy that no one can be excluded for financial reasons). The only paid positions in the Chorus are the Artistic Director and the accompanist, who receive a minimum stipend.

A further requirement of Chorus members is that they attend at least 75% of the rehearsals, which are held once a week for three hours, to be able to perform in the concerts. It is also strongly suggested that they help with fund-raising events. The Chorus has a budget of more than \$100,000 a year, and it is still more than \$100,000 in debt from the 1981 tour. Because concert revenues and contributions do not meet these figures, Chorus members help to raise money through events such as raffles and \$100-a-plate dinners.

Because the demands of time and energy are so great, turnover in the Chorus is fairly high. Ray estimates the Chorus loses 20% of its membership after each concert. Less than 15% of those who went on the 1981 tour are still with the group, and only ten original members are left (including Perry George, my guardian for the evening). Nevertheless, the spirit of the group seems to run high, and there is never a lack of prospective new members. With 117 souls, the Chorus doesn't go begging for members.

After the break, I rejoined my fellow tenors and regained a small degree of self-respect by singing songs by Grieg adequately—nay, ably—which was a relief after the Strauss piece. I spent the rest of the rehearsal making notes and cruising a smooth-shaven blond baritone wearing a yellow shirt. (Sweetheart, if you know who you are, call me.) One of the other tenors assured me that this sort of cruising is not uncommon in the all-Gay group, but that it isn't as popular a pastime now as it once was, due to the AIDS crisis, of course. (Leave it to me to get to the heart of the matter quickly. I mean, just what is important here?) ■

Later, at Bull's restaurant down the street, where many Chorus members repaired after rehearsal, I learned more about the group's other extra-curricular activities. Although the group works hard, aims high, and takes itself quite seriously, explained baritone Renny Marinaccio, socializing is still an important part of the curriculum. Twice a year the Chorus goes on weekend retreats to Camp Swig, and there are plenty of post-concert parties and weekly get-togethers. As a result, many deep friendships are made, including a number of long-term intimate relationships. Given the kind of commitment Chorus members make to the group, this is not surprising. "The Chorus gives you a sense of belonging," continued Marinaccio. "I tell new people, 'You have a lover and you have a job, and right below that should be the Chorus.'"

Turning the conversation toward the Chorus' once-stellar but now-beleaguered reputation, Marinaccio expressed resentment at a *B.A.R.* critic's description of a recent performance as "barely adequate," although he acknowledged that due to financial difficulties and unstable leadership, "We may not sound as good as before. But neither are we as elitist as we once were. We're more democratic now, more open. Nevertheless, we are still dedicated to musical excellence. Come to the concert. You'll see."

"I will," I promised as I left the restaurant, but inwardly I doubted whether or not I would keep that promise. Having been allowed to rehearse with the group, the heartbreak of not being allowed to perform might be too great. It is one of the risks I did not foresee when, like the ambitious journalist I am, I threw myself into the fray.

I still sing in the shower from time to time, but it is not the same. Having sung with the Gay Men's Chorus for a night, I deserve better now. I need a bigger audience. My irritated neighbors agree—as long as it is anyone but them. ■

M. Hippler

Call To Arms



A little caring goes a long way to reduce the feelings of rejection and isolation that can accompany an AIDS diagnosis.

Volunteers, like yourself, are urgently needed for a few hours a

week to provide emotional and practical support for people with AIDS. Call today for more information.

Shanti Project
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558-9644

Softball Tournament

Eight softball teams of the Gay Softball League will participate Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 in a benefit tournament. Proceeds from the event will go for patient needs at the AIDS wing of Garden Sullivan Hospital, Pacific Medical Center, 2750 Geary, San Francisco.

Teams from Cafe San Marcos, Chaps, Gingers, the Kokpit, the Phone Booth, the Producers (Hunks), the GSL Rookies, and Trax will participate.

The Tournament begins Friday, Aug. 30 with a kick-off par-

ty at both the Kokpit and Hunks at 8 p.m. Breakfast will be served Saturday, Aug. 31 from 9 to 11:15 a.m., at the Phone Booth. Play begins at noon on both fields. Six games will be played. Beginning at 5:15 p.m. a Loud party will be held at Chaps. Admission is free. Sunday, Sept. 1, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. there will be a Smart brunch at Cafe San Marcos. At noon, double elimination play will continue. The final six games will be played. At 6 p.m. an awards presentation at Cafe San Marcos will take place. Additional festivities may erupt at Ginger's and Trax. ■

BAY AREA REPORTER

B.A.R. BAZAAR



MR. MARCUS

All This and Heaven Too?

When they penned the song, "Hot Time, Summer in the City," they surely must have had San Francisco's Gay community in mind. If you're too pooped to pop with the rest of the crazy ones, you should consult with your local chiropractor or beef up on the vitamin consumption. This week promises to be one of the most active in the city.

For openers, tonight the SF-Eagle presents its next-to-last Bare Chest contest for the 1986 calendar. It should be a hilarious

donation (a benefit for the SF AIDS Fund) will entitle you to all the beer or soft drinks you can handle or two well drinks; they'll also have a door prize and raffle drawings, with Intl. Mr. Leather Patrick Toner and Leather Daddy '85 Christian Heran MCing the event.

Saturday, voting takes place for Grand Duke and Duchess most of the day at 18th and Castro or at the Stallion on Polk Street, the winners being announced at the Cossack Capers Ball that night at Bimbo's Showroom beginning at 8 p.m.

If you survive all these shenanigans, Sunday promises to hold

ciate. Following the ceremonies, a \$6 Beer Bust by the Imperial Guards will take place in the Eagle patio from 1500 to 1800 with food and raffles.

Over at the Powerhouse, erotic star Al Parker appears in person for the Greasy Jock Strap contest beginning at 1600 hours with a cash prize for the winner and of course, the 2nd Annual Bar Wars takes place on Polk Street. Buy your ticket book for \$10 at most bars on the 'Strasse, as well as at the Mint and the Kokpit. It's a benefit for the Godfather Service Fund. If you make it to work next Monday, you should get a medal, and think of all the fun you'll have!

* * *

The bike run spree continues, and if you're into that sort of thing, the next one is the weekend of Aug. 16-18. The Constantines M/C Orient Express at Spring Gap in the Stanislaus Nat'l. Forest still has \$75 openings (until Aug. 12). Absolutely NO pets or non-prescription drugs. Write to P.O. Box 4964, SF 94101.

The Cycle Runners M/C present their run, KANSAS, The Land of Aaaaaahs! Aug. 30-Sept. 2 at Big Basin State Park, with an \$80 tariff before Aug. 16th, \$90 by Aug. 26th, or \$100 at the Gate. Write P.O. Box 26737, SF 94126 for an application.

If you want to travel South, that same weekend is the Los Angeles Satyrs M/C Badger Flats run with a \$75 fee before Aug. 18 and \$100 thereafter. All these runs provide around the clock bar food, bike and people events, a show, campsite competition, and lust in the dust.

The Warlocks M/C hold their 25th Anniversary Run, On Silver Wings, the weekend of Sept. 20-22 with ducats at \$60 before Aug. 31, or \$70 after and before Sept. 15. After the 15th, it'll cost you \$80 with no applications at the gate. Call (415) 285-6004 for more details.

* * *

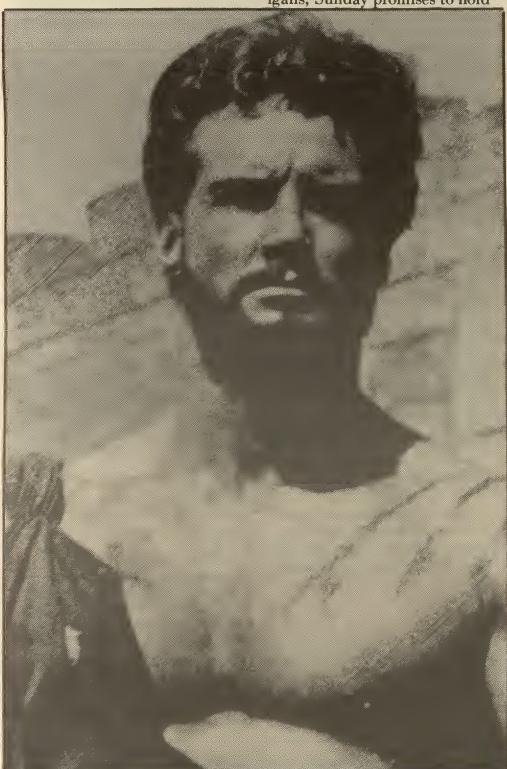
Today Saturday, the candidates for Grand Duchess are after your vote. There are a lot of good people running for the title—hard workers all and striving to help make this a better community for everyone in need. When considering a candidate, think of the people who surround him, their talents, their connections, and their sincerity in helping make this a better place to live.

* * *

Summertime is travel time. I appreciate all the postcards you guys have been sending me, but I wish I knew who they were from! Almost all of them are signed, "Bob," "Bill," "Joe," no last names!

Right now the newest rage is the Pacifica Resort Hotel in Las Vegas. If you're tired of boring and grimy Reno, this is the place for you. Lee Spears is running the place and it's located at 115 East Tropicana St. The \$6 1/2 million complex has a disco bigger than

(Continued on next page)



Steve Reeves, former Mr. Universe
(Photo Courtesy City Sports)

evening because once again Wilkes Bashford heads up the judging contingent. Assisting the enfant terrible will be the imitable Judith Gould (Nick Bienes), author of Sins, and Joyce Hunter. Joyce is a hilarious Lesbian who just happens to be visiting us from New York and is one of the co-founders of Harvey Milk High School. Tonight's winner will be Mr. November on the Eagle's calendar.

Over at the Rawhide, also tonight, the finale of the Mr. Rawhide contest take place, with \$500 to the winner, \$250 to the 1st runner-up, a pair of Tony Lama boots to the 2nd runner-up, and a Stetson hat to the 3rd runner-up. Good luck to all the contestants in both competitions.

And it doesn't end there. Tomorrow night, Friday, Aug. 9, the 3rd Annual Leather Daddy's contest takes place at Chaps beginning at 9 p.m. The \$10

something for everyone. Former Mr. Universe, Steve Reeves, makes his appearance in San Francisco Sunday morning, Aug. 11, at the Marina Green to participate in the SF Hill Stride, a 6.8 mile grueling hill-stride race over seven of San Francisco's most challenging hills. Mr. Reeves, now 59, thrilled thousands of Gay men in the late '50s and early '60s in posing magazines and starred as Hercules in two Italian-made movies, and they say he still looks GOOD.

The registration fee for this race is \$12, and for further info contact City Sports Magazine at 546-6150. Mr. Reeves will appear at the Strider's Expo on the Marina Green after the race.

At 1300 hours, the annual Blessing of the Bikes takes place at the SF-Eagle. In anticipation of a big turnout, 12th Street will be closed to traffic and officials from the MCC Church will offi-

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EVERY:

Mon.—JACK OFF PARTY (6pm on — come early)
Tues.—UNCUT GUYS (Very Hot Guy guys welcome)
Wed.—HAIRY MEN'S NIGHT (shirt check encouraged)
Thur.—WELL ENDOWMENT
Fri./Sat.—VERY BUSY
Sun.—BODY BUILDERS (Use any gym card plus \$5)

NOTE: 1808 is a private club for J/O artists and includes the body-conscious man. Washboard stomachs, masculine looks, etc. We have a full clothes change system. BYOB/Beer/VIDEO/and friendly.

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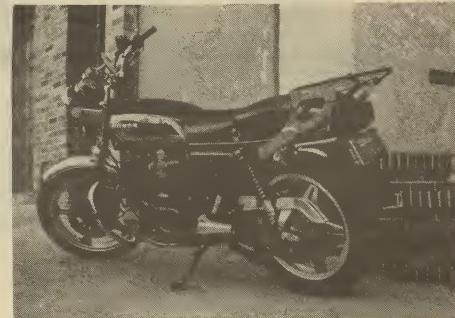
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9 AM - 10 PM, Mon.-Sat.
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AUG. 8th THRU 25th

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Studio One or Trocadero, with name entertainment. Before long, there will be special bus deals from San Francisco and Los Angeles direct to the premises. If you're feeling antsy and want something new, swank, and different, call toll-free (800) 634-6151 for your reservations.

Closer to home and more subdued is the new DeHaven Valley Farm about 17 miles north of Ft. Bragg. This new bed and breakfast inn offers 20 acres to wander in and it's right on the beach with cottages, bunk beds, horses, biking, and a hot tub. It's the ideal place for a honey/funny moon. You can reserve by writing to 39247 North Highway One, Westport, CA 95488 or calling (707) 964-5252. Wayne Zion is your gracious host.

★ ★ ★

In response to my plea in an earlier column, thanks to State Sen. Milton Marks who graciously donated a brand new telephone answering machine to the SF AIDS Fund, the only non-profit AIDS agency without a paid staff member. However, they still need a small office space suitable for a desk, telephone,

and a few filing cabinets in which to conduct their very worthwhile work. Your space donation is worth \$300 a month in a tax write-off, so contact Alan Selby at Mister S Products if you are able to donate some space, and don't forget the Leather Daddy contest at Chaps this Friday night. Somebody out there MUST have some space they're not using!

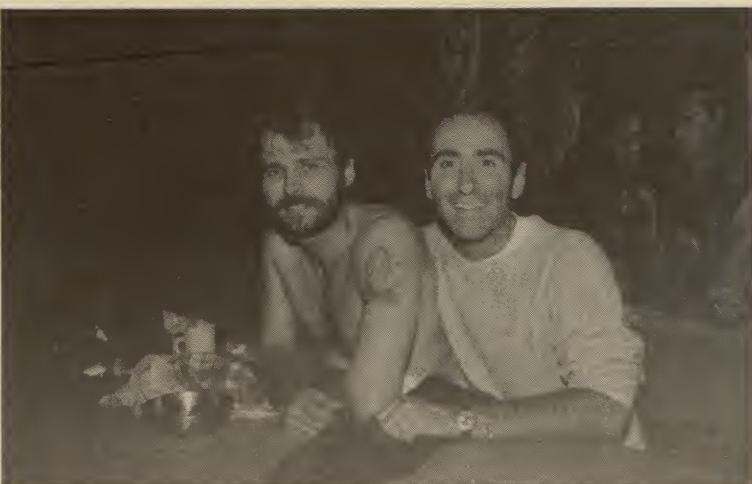
★ ★ ★

If you're a uniform freak, there's a new 1986 calendar out already. It's called, "I Love A Man in Uniform" and will cost you \$9.95 plus \$1.25 for postage and handling and is available from Andre Fiset Productions, Box 1127, Station F, Toronto, Canada M4Y 2T8, and they'll accept your check or money order. It's hot and very macho, so be the first on your block!

DOT, DOT, DOT, DISH

I'll never know how men got women's names in this Gay society, but some of them are fun, the latest being Dagmar at the Powerhouse, which is Rick Gaston, the swamper on the premises. I don't know why they call him Dagmar; he's not blonde, he's not voluptuous, but he does have that laissez faire attitude!

Larry Nora, also known as Nora Neat, has decided to go



Joe Cappetta (l.), director of Circle of the Serpent now playing at the Ambush, with cast member Rick Patton
(Photo: Marcus)

"legit," as they say, and is now solidly entrenched in the wonderful world of video taping, his latest opus being a documentary on Laguna Honda Hospital. The name of his company is Video-Vag (rhymes with badge), but I'm sure it has other connotations as well.

Peter Dyer, long a veteran leather man on Folsom, has finally completed remodeling his fabulous Victorian hideaway and is out and about these days with a new "significant other" and looking so good last Sunday at the SF-Eagle even Stella Stoll couldn't concentrate on his mixology.

Danny Rodriguez, the ultimate bartender, has returned to SFO, and it's doubtful whether he'll be unemployed for long. Since he's single (for a little while), he's decided to renew his romance with Sonny Cline (the elephant hunter) and this state of affairs may just veto Sonny's plans to move to Chicago!

Sal Roselli, the president of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, has been soloing in the South of Market bars, and in response to someone who doubts his Gayness, stoutly promised he would produce at least three of his ex-lovers to verify he is a genuine, true, and practicing homosexual—all this without Dennis Collins prompting him on the sidelines. When asked if he were planning to run for public office, Roselli answered in the affirmative, and while he didn't say WHICH office, everyone got the impression it was Room 200 at City Hall. Are you reading this Wayne Friday?

The SF Band Foundation will be accompanied by 20 of SF's



A careful but intense kiss at the Eagle Patio (Photo: Rink)

best entertainers Monday, Sept. 16—are you ready?—the Venetian Room. More details later, but this one sounds good, so save your tokens for the big event.

While I'm scooping, you may well start saving up for the premiere performance of CATS coming your way next year as a benefit being handled by (drum roll), The Board of Directors of the Cable Car Awards, who

brought you La Cage aux Folles last year!

Believe me when I tell you—it's been fun! Hope to see you around at all the parties and festivities (all for a good cause, of course) and until next week, remember, this column was brought to you by all our advertisers and by the more than 190,000 subscribers who absolutely believe in DISH! ■

Mister Marcus

BOOK RACK

The Most Intimate Dialogue

Hold Me Until Morning
by Daniel Rudman
Fred Cody Books, \$5

by Marv Shaw

Your cock ever seem like another guy? No, no—I don't mean like that macho Latino with the world's hottest salsa. I mean more like a shrunken, impudent twin of yourself—a guy you still don't understand even after living with him intimately all your born days. The shrinks tell us the idea is not at all uncommon. Daniel Rudman develops this conceit into a two-character one-act play, an intense dialogue in the middle of the night.

Self, sleepless, wants his Prick to get it off just once more, to ease tension and allow sleep to come. Penis, who incidentally bitterly resents being called "Prick," is at first cooperative,

then sassy, defiant, hostile. Their raging exchanges explore many of the yearnings, resentments, frustrations, and disappointments of an active but unsatisfactory sex life. And in doing so, the deficiencies of Self as a loving person get displayed.

Psychotherapeutic terms like "performance anxiety" are inadequate to describe the problem. But Self does come too fast, and that unfortunate repeated phenomenon is the major issue between the two, with Self blaming Penis, and the latter angrily returning the blame. But the play is not just a hyper-emotional round robin. With Penis forcing Self to confront his nature, especially his sexual past, enlightenment grows.

Self, while not Everyman, is enough of any male to make him familiar and relevant. Self is straight, but that hardly matters

here. As Rudman handles the situation, the sexual orientation could be straight, Gay, or bi. Also, there is a careful avoidance of partner blaming. Neither Self nor Penis is shown to have a *vagina dentata* fear, for example.

The periodic ascensions into screaming matches get a bit tiresome, but we must realize that these erratic fits are integral. After all, so tormenting a problem can't be realistically treated with cool, consistent rationality.

This play is not just a quirky tour de force. And though audiences would certainly be amused by much of it, the revelations and the feelings go far beyond comedy.

A copy of the play may be ordered by sending \$5 plus 6% sales tax and \$1.50 for handling to the Center for Prospering Relationships, P.O. Box 9355, San Rafael, Ca. 94912. ■

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COURTLY CHATTER

Goodbye Hollywood Goodbye

REMY

Two hundred and seventy-five men from both northern and southern California trekked their way to the Stanislaus Forest's Spring Gap to attend the 20th annual Barbary Coasters Motorcycle Run during the weekend of July 26-28. The run site, which was a former loggers' camp, provided ample space for all of the attendees to select their ideal campsite. Several members of the host club arrived at the campsite the previous Monday to prepare for the arrival of their guests. Planning a run of this size is no easy task as a myriad of details must be worked out, and everyone is given several duties to ensure that the run goes off without a hitch. Presiding over the planning is the club's road captain, Chuck Eargle. Since the club has experience with dealing

Guest Night show started at 10. The hour and 27 minute show had a wide variety of talent, with many of the entertainers saluting stars or shows from Hollywood. There were 17 different acts, and many of them sparked with imagination and wit. Some of San Francisco's premier entertainers took to the boards and made you feel like you were at the Victoria Theatre watching a version of "Men Behind Bars." Normally, after the Guest Night show, a blazing camp fire is produced, but due to the unusually dry season and extreme fire danger, the Forest Service banned it. Nonetheless, everyone gathered around the bar and partied into the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday morning the kitchen was buzzing under the watchful

added points for completing various tasks along the course. The time is used as a tie-breaker and does at times contribute to the over-all scoring. As in any type of sporting event, there lies the possibility of penalties and avoiding them an added reason to carefully follow those instructions given at the start of the course.

After the Rider and Buddy events, lunch of Sophia's Rigatoni with Carlo's meat sauce, with the choice of Sally Fields Soup or Soupy Sales Salad, featuring Bread and Butter II, was served. Many of the guests were seen frolicking in the swimming hole, while others were building dams so their private swimming hole would be deep enough. With the temperature in the 90s, what better way to cool off.

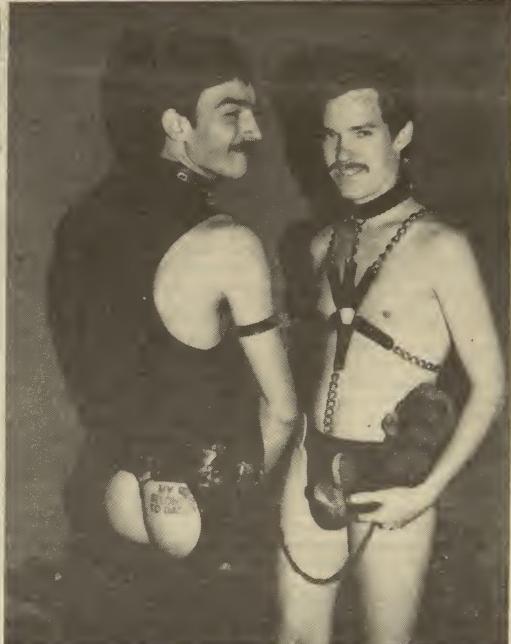
With lunch out of the way, People Events were held for those who either missed the Motorcycle events or who opted for safer ways to have fun. The events consisted of a Fred and Ginger Continental balloon busting (a balloon was placed between a pair of partners and by not using their hands, they had to try and burst the balloon), matching stars names to their pictures and a Hollywood trivial pursuit. The annual Gold Panning event rounded out the people events, as 20 or so men bounded into the river trying to claim the most colored rocks. There was more splashing as each participant tried to distract his opponent from claiming the gold.

'General revelry again reared its head, and the last of the partiers was seen slipping into his tent at the tasteful hour of 6:30 a.m.!

with large numbers of people, this works to their advantage, as everyone of their guests must be made to feel as if they were at a country estate. Food, drink, events, and shows are an integral part of the run; nothing is left to chance.

The bulk of the guests arrived during the day on Friday. The run officially started at 6 p.m. with the opening of the 24-hour bar and guest registration. Dinner was served at 7:30 and the

eyes of Larry Velasquez and Bob Ross. Eggs to order and all the fixings were served up as bleary-eyed guests made their way through the chow line. Rider and Buddy Events followed breakfast as 18 riders and 17 buddies were put through a series of events, such as slalom, picking up items on the move and then dismounting and remounting his motorcycle to finish the course. These events are usually based upon either slow time or fast time, plus



These boys may look for their daddies Aug. 9 at the Leather Daddies contest at Chaps
(Photo: Rink)

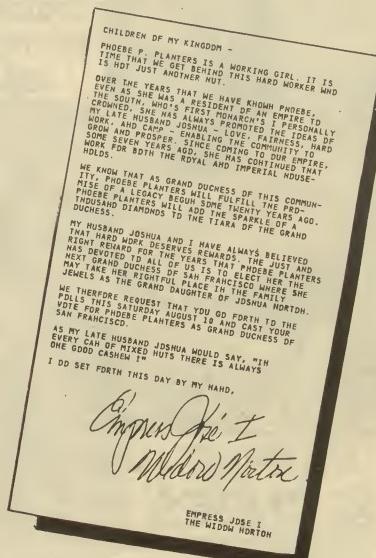
The remainder of the afternoon was dedicated to putting the finishing touches on costumes or campsites for the early evening festivities. 5 p.m. started the Campsite Judging and hosted cocktail parties by various clubs. Immediately following was the individual and group Costume judging and the Mr. Hollywood Jockstrap and Miss Hollywood contests. After all that hoopla, everyone adjourned to the bar for another round of cocktails while the finishing touches for dinner were being made.

Dinner consisted of Santa Monica Salad Bar, Robert Redford Roast Beef Au Jus, Baked Burbank Potatoes, Le Mison's Mixed Vegetable, The Return of Bread and Butter, and a Sneak Preview Dessert. With all that under their belts, the guests settled down for the Club's show, "Goodbye Hollywood Goodbye," a salute to some of Hollywood's greatest stars. Under the direction of Messrs. Gene Forrest and Charles Durham, the 45-minute show zipped along without a flaw. Each performance was

(Continued on next page)

ELECT PHOEBE P. PLANTERS Grand Duchess of San Francisco

Endorsed by



AUGUST 10th

10AM-4PM

VOTE AT: The Stallion (Polk/Ellis)
'Hibernia Beach' (18th St./Castro)

This Ad Paid

For:

FESTUS

18th St./Collingwood
A Little Country In the Castro

Chatter

(Continued from previous page)

greeted with wild cheering and applause. Before you knew it, the show was over and the audience kept screaming for more. The synopsis of the show, courtesy of Monte Reddick, was so funny, I have to share with you. "The members of the Barbary Coasters, in the fading tradition of Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney and Jane Withers, decided it would be fun to get together and put on a musical revue. Unfortunately we didn't have a barn so we took the show on the road and ended up here in Stanislaus National Forest (named, incidentally for the pioneer movie-maker, Bernie Stanislaus, who was, unfortunately, crushed to death beneath the wheels of the catering truck as it was rushing to M & M Pavilion where the cast was rehearsing). Our show tonight is dedicated to Bernie and all the other show business greats we somehow never got a chance to meet."

After the show the cast was seen waiting for the early issue of "Variety" to see how the show had fared, while the audience scrambled to the bar for "just another cocktail." General revelry again reared its head, and the last of the partiers was seen slipping into his tent at the tasteful hour of 6:30 a.m.!

Sunday morning came much too early for a lot of the guests, and as breakfast was being served, conversation centered around the events during the weekend and who slept with who. Slowly but surely people started to break camp and pack up for the drive back to their homes. Some didn't want to leave, but Monday is a work day and regrettably we wended our way home.

Following are the winners of the various events held during the weekend. Rider Events: (light weight) 3rd place, David Bronder, 2nd place, Leonard Brown, 1st place, Jerry Roberts; (medium weight) 3rd place, Dan Jeanonne, 2nd place, Buzz Brown, 1st place, Earl Grist; (heavy weight) 3rd place (tie), Ken



Members of the Gay Men's Chorus at a beer bust in their honor at the Eagle last weekend
(Photo: Rink)

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Devin and Jim Burroughs, 2nd place, Gary Kenyon, 1st place, Steve Gibbs. Sweepstakes (overall winner in rider events) Bill Hollabaugh. Buddy Events: 3rd place, Duke Armstrong, 2nd place, Allen Hemming, 1st place, Tony Trevizo. People Events: 2nd place, Les Johnson, 1st place, Al Allen; Gold Panning (separate award) Mick Sheppard. Best Group Campsite: 2nd place, Constantines M/C, 1st place, 42nd Street Gang, Best Individual Campsite, (one winner) Jerry Hubbell. Best Group Costume, 42nd Street Gang; Best Individual Costume, Bill Irton (as Carmen Miranda). Miss Hollywood: 2nd place, Warren Cave (as Esther Williams), 1st place, Lee Raymond. Mr. Hollywood Jockstrap: 2nd place, David Sarathain, 1st place, Darwin Silcock. Special re-cycling award went to Roger Coca for bringing in the most aluminum cans. Congratulations to all the winners and participants.

The Barbary Coasters would like to thank those individuals who contributed their time, talents, and energy in helping make their 20th Annual Run a huge success. Also a very special thanks to the guest night performers, as Mr. DeMille would say, "we're ready for your close up." Last, but certainly not least, our guests for joining us this year and supporting "friendship through camaraderie."

UP & COMING

The elections for Grand Duke and Grand Duchess are this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Voting is at Hibernia Beach and the Stallion on the corner of Polk and Ellis Streets. Later that evening, the Grand Ducal Ball "Cosack Capers" at Bimbo's 365 Club, 1025 Columbus Ave., tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. Get out and vote for the candidate of your choice. The candidates for Grand Duchess are: Miss Deena Jones, Ms. Piggi, and Phoebe P. Planters; candidate for Grand Duke is Tony Trevizo. (This is a "yes or no" type of voting. Yes, you want a grand duke or no, you don't want one.)

Sunday the 11th, the S.F. Eagle is having a Bike Blessing, starting at 1 p.m. on Twelfth Street. Members of MCC San Francisco will be officiating. Following the blessing, the Imperial Guards will be hosting a Beer Bust on the Patio of the Eagle from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Donation of \$6 for all the beer you can drink, food, and a raffle. Plan to attend.

Applications are still available for the Constantines M/C run "Oriental Express" during the weekend of August 16-18, which takes place at Pioneer Trail in the Stanislaus National Forest. Contact any member of the club for applications. On Sunday the 18th, the California Eagles are hosting a Beer Bust at the Eagle

patio from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. "Return of the Orient Express." Donation is \$5 with Constantines run pin, \$6 without. The usual food, fun, sun, and all the beer you can drink.

The Forum of San Francisco meets on the 15th, Chez Mollet's banquet room, starts at 8:30 p.m.

The Inter Club Fund meets on the 20th, 8 p.m. Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St.

Run applications for both the Cycle Runners M/C and the Warlocks M/C are still available. The Cycle Runners Run is scheduled for August 30, 31, and September 1 and 2 at Big Basin. The Warlocks Run is scheduled for September 20-22 at Lake San Antonio, Monterey State Park. The Warlocks are celebrating their 25th anniversary; this promises to be a super-duper run. Both clubs are rider oriented and their motorcycle events are always challenging and very imaginative.

International Mr. Leather 1985, Patrick Toner, and friends are having an "Up Your Alley" street faire on Ringold Alley, Sunday Aug. 24. Details are posted in the bars; this one should be real fun.

Well, that's all for now and I appreciate any comments, pro or con about this column. Send them care of the B.A.R. Lastly, take care and spread a little A-L-O-H-A around—we all need that right about now!

Remy



The Cycle Runners MC held a beer bust at the Transfer last weekend

(Photo: Rink)



SWEET LIPS SEZ . . .

Passing Parade

DICK WALTERS

Reba's back and the Queen Mary's Pub has got her . . . back on the planks that is, days, and camping it up in her own quiet way . . . did you enjoy your vacation Casey?

The Revol in Oakland is celebrating its 11th Anniversary this Sunday the 11th of August, with the festivities going on all day, and with Bob Sandner on the keyboard . . . also, a baron of beef dinner will be served for only \$3 . . . so don't miss this event.

I wonder what the secret is of Gilmore's favorite customer Kay . . . it seems she gets the nicest men to walk her home in the early evening, and I want to know how she does it so I can try the same . . . maybe you should too, Paul Ruehl.

Seaman Russ . . . Totie's pro-

perty . . . is now doing the 6 a.m. till 10 a.m. shift on the planks at Googie's on Friday through Sundays, and getting some great drinking people in.

Rumor has it Gary of Kimo's is moving to Portland to marry an X Empress and show girl, and no it is not Darcelle . . . does Jack Purcell know Gary? . . . and thanks for stopping by on Saturday with the wonderful David of Hunks . . . he is a candidate for a spoon award the way he has been stirring lately.

Just want to say Bon Voyage to Danny Montoya and his lover Ben, who are moving to Las Vegas . . . hope you enjoyed your party at Googie's last Sunday afternoon . . . I know I did, but I don't know why the Cuban hid the microphone as we do great back-ups, you and I, Danny . . . give my love to Bob Dunn and his Woody in Las Vegas.

Out in the Castro area try the Elephant Walk for their daily brunches . . . very, very tasty and, of course, a good view of the passing parade of beauties. ■

The staff of Googie's cordially invites you to a "Surprise" 50th Birthday Party for Howard tonight from 5 p.m. on, with entertainment and canapes . . . we hope to see you all.

George Lowy had a birthday party for Ken Reeder's big 40th last Friday at Sutter's Mill, and I don't think "thunderthighs" will ever be the same . . . but what is the meaning of the black plunger, Kent?

This Saturday night the one and only Ruth Hastings and company will be doing an 8 p.m. show prior to going on the road with it . . . make your reservations early.

Bazaar Calendar

Thursday 8/8: Ms. Piggi, Ram's Head (GD Candidate)

Deena Jones, The Pendulum, 8 p.m. (GDC)

Tony Trevizo, Trax, 8 p.m. (GDC)

Phoebe P. Planters, with Rita Rocket, Castro Station, Party & Benefit for Ward 5B dinner program, 9 p.m. (GDC).

Friday 8/9: Grand Ducal Out-Of-Town Awards, 8 p.m., \$10 benefit for AIDS Fund, MC's International Mr. Leather Patrick Toner and Leather Daddy '84 Christian Haren, door prizes, raffles, drawings, Sponsor: Interchain.

Saturday 8/10: Grand Ducal Voting, 18th St. and Castro and The Stallion (Polk at Ellis St.), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Grand Duke Candidate: Tony Trevizo, Grand Duchess Candidates: Deena Jones, Ms. Piggi, Phoebe P. Planters.

Cossack Capers, Grand Ducal Coronation Ball, Bimbo's

365 Club, 1025 Columbus St. near Chestnut, doors: 6:30 pm, Show: 7 p.m., \$10/\$12.

Winner's Circles: The Village, Casa Loma, Festus, after ball.

Sunday 8/11: Bar Wars, Polk Street, 10 a.m., \$10 includes one drink at each stop, raffle chances, Check-in: Wooden Horse, Stallion, Polk Gulch, Hunks, New Bell (show with Ronnie Lynn), QT, Renegade, White Swallow, Cinch. Ends at Kimo's with prizes, barn dance, buffet by Mamma Billy.

Grand Ducal Victory Brunch, Galleon II (14th at Market) 11 a.m.

Victory Party, Kokpit, 2 p.m.

SF Imperial Guard, SF Eagle Patio, 3 to 6 p.m., \$6 beer bust, includes food, beer, soda, raffles.

Greasy Jockstrap Contest, Powerhouse, 4 to 10 p.m., judges include Al Parker. ■

Compiled by Karl Stewart

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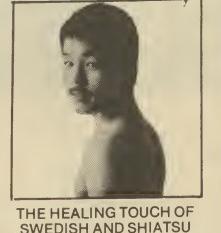
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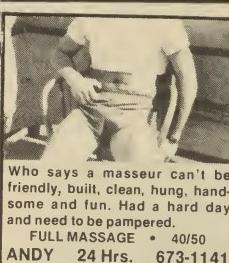
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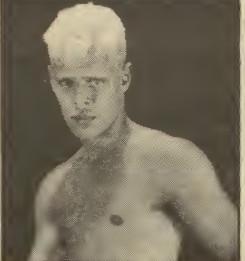
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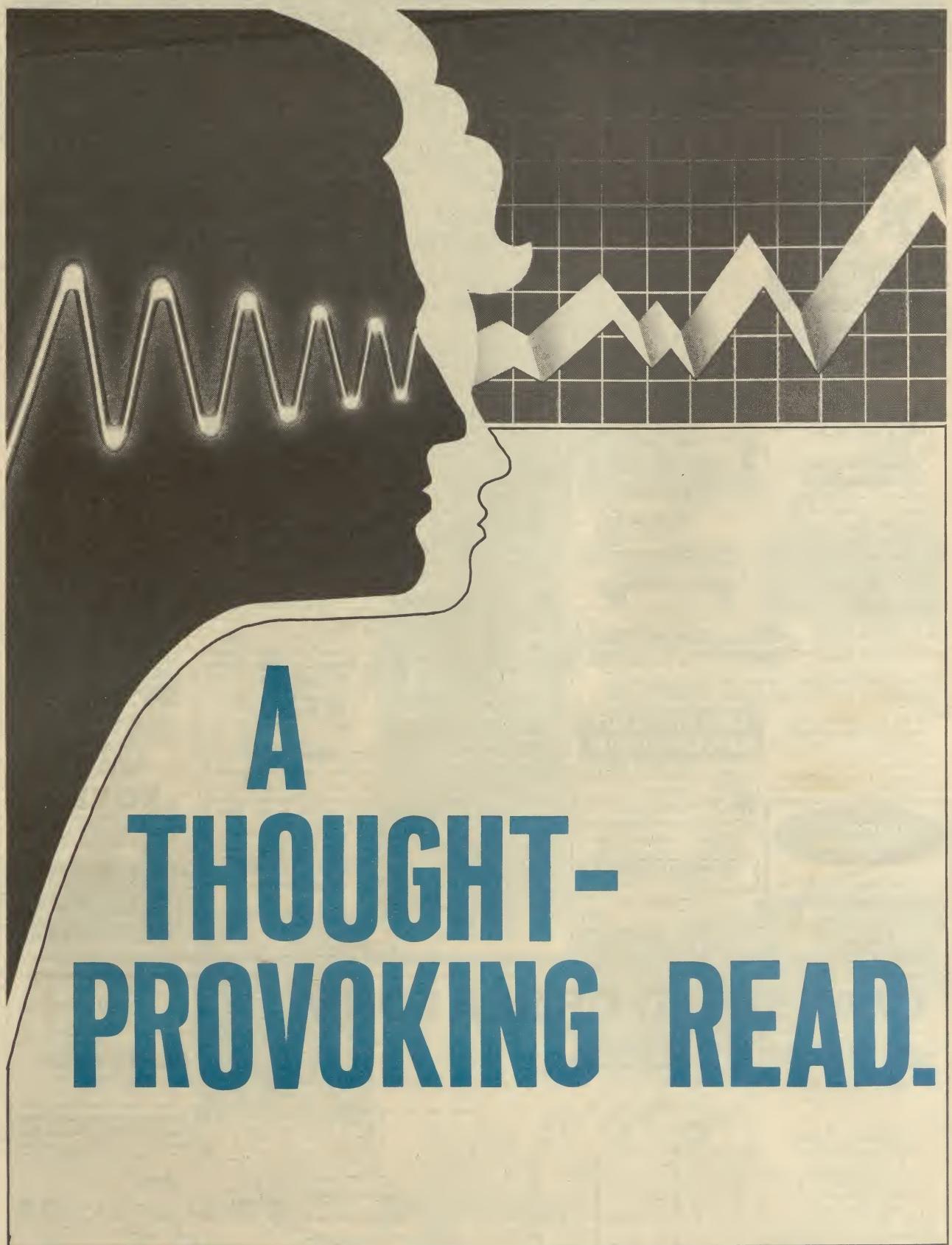
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